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The pleasures and perils of aromatherapy



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ine goes after cabinet clash show the possible us

show the possible use tacker, and evidence of sault. Scotland Yard of that Susan's body has from a churchyard in Edon. Samples were take and the body was the bod Kisignation boosts euro

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN AND ALISDAIR MURRAY

EUROPE was plunged into confusion last night when Oskar Lafontaine resigned as German Finance Minister af-ter a fierce cabinet row with the Chancellor, Gerhard

Herr Lafontaine, decried by The Sun as "the most danger-ous man in Europe", had made himself into Britain's bugbear by pushing hard for tax harmonisation and much tighter European integration, and his departure was greeted with barely concealed glee in Downing Street and on the international markets.

Investors concluded that the resignation would put an end to the damaging feuding between the German Government and the European Central Bank, and the euro which had been trading at fresh lows - staged a remarka-ble turnaround within minutes. European Government bonds also climbed in the postresignation euphoria and European stock markets, which were closed when the news broke, are expected to see

strong gains today. Herr Lafontaine, a champion of traditional tax-andspend socialist policies, has been at war with the ECB from the moment he took office, with his demands for lower interest rates and a "Red euro" — a currency sensitive to centre-left pressure.

Analysts said that his departure not only restored confidence in the euro but, ironically, also made a European interest rate cut more likely be-cause the ECB would feel less under pressure to prove its independence.

Herr Schröder hirried last night to reassure Germany that his coalition Government was still on a stable footing. But the Social Democrats will hold a crisis meeting today to nominate a successor to Herr Lafontaine as party chairman

— with suggestions that Herr Schröder may take on the role while the inner government circle will also announce a

new finance minister. Hans Eichel, the former prime minister of Hesse, is the front-runner. Herr Eichel, like Herr Lafontaine, is a strong behever in tighter European integration, but he is regarded as more of a conciliator.

Despite the Chancellor's apparent confidence, there was no disguising the fact that Herr Lafonizine's resignation was a crushing vote of no-confidence in the Government at a time when the country holds the EU presidency. Herr Lafontaine was central to the negotiations for an overhaul of European finances in preparation for the enlargement of the community and critical decisions are to be taken at a summit in Berlin in a fortnight.

Now Germany's ability to broker a satisfactory deal has been seriously weakened. Although the resignation removes a thorn from Chancellor Schröder's side, it cripples the government at a vital mo-

ment in European politics. The struggle between Herr Schröder and his finance minister has been at the heart of the Social Democratic-led gov-ernment since it toppled Helmut Kohl last September. Herr Lafontaine has come under sharp criticism for a muddled tax reform, for sending the wrong signals to industry and for political flirtation with ex-communists. The Social Democratic party has split into two camps, with modern-isers loyal to the Chancellor having the slight advantage over more traditional socialists who looked to Herr

The weakness of his position became clear earlier this week when he was again tipped to become the next president of the European Commission an unrealistic but politically inspired leak intended to show that he was on the way out.

Lafontaine.

The showdown came at a cabinet meeting on Wednesday. The Chancellor complained about the sloppy work of some ministers and barked that he was fed up with backtracking after bungled and half-baked initiatives had



Oskar Lafontaine, whose resignation yesterday was greeted with glee across Europe

been launched on the public. He then hinted he might resign if his team did not perform more professionally. The comments were directed primarily at the controver-

sial Green environment minister, Jürgen Trittin. But it was also a criticism of the finance minister. Herr Lafontaine gave his full support to the Chancellor at the cabinet ses-

sion. Later that evening, however, he decided to throw in

> Bonn in chaos, page 15 Leading article, page 23

Al Fayed's brother wins battle for passport

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE brother of Mohamed Al Fayed yesterday won his sixyear battle to get a UK passport, opening the way for the Harrods chairman himself to get his British citizenship.

A final decision on Mr Al Fayed's request for a passport has not been reached but Jack Straw, the Home Secretary. has removed an obstacle block-

ing a successful application. The Home Office said it was seeking further information before making the decision on Mr Al Payed's five-year effort

to obtain citizenship.

But in giving his brother,
Ali Fayed, his passport, Mr Straw ruled that a government report branding the brothers as liars was no longer

relevant to the applications. A statement issued by the Home Office said Mr Straw had decided not to be influenced by the Department of Trade and Industry report into the takeover of Harrods by the three Fayed brothers. It jad ruled that their account of the takeover in 1985 was "unre-

liable" "untrue" and "bogus". Ali, Mohamed and Salah Fayed were said to have lied to advisers about their origins, wealth and business interests.

A Home Office statement said that Mr Straw had decided to discount the criticisms of Ali Fayed made in the DTI report because of the passage of time since it was published in

Home Office sources said that the criticisms would also be discounted when a decision is taken on Mr Al Payed's ap-

Laurence Harris, solicitor for the brothers, said they were delighted by the news and that Mr Al Fayed was confident that he will also now receive a British passport.

Mr Harris, a partner in the London law firm of D.J. Freeman, said that Mr Straw's decision was a huge step forward. "Ali has been waiting six years for his application to be determined fairly and he

now has his passport." Mr Harris refused to say what further information in relation to Mr Al Fayed's appli-cation was being sought by the Home Office and said he had no idea when the matter

would be resolved. Egyptian-born Ali Fayed 55, who came to Britain in the late 1960s, originally applied for UK citizenship in 1993. His brother, Mohamed, 66, applied a year later. The third brother, Salah, has not applied for citizenship.

Lord Archer of Weston-Super-Mare, the former deputy chairman of the Conservative party, Sir Gordon Reece. Margaret Thatcher's image adviser, and Sir Peter Hordern, a mer Tory MP. gave refer ences for both men. Field Marshal Lord Bramall, former Chief of the Defence Staff, also supported Mr Al Fayed's appli-

The applications were rejected in 1995 and the brothers then embarked on a legal battle to force a review. They won 1996 that the decision was unlawful

Michael Gove, page 5

Clegg is cleared

Paratrooper Lee Clegg wept as he was acquitted of the 1990 murder of a teenage joyrider in Bel-fast, despite being branded a har by the judge. Clegg was found guilty of a second charge of attempting to wound the car's driver. Mr Justice Kerr said that much of the soldier's defence was untruthful and incapable

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Britain says EU farm deal is too costly

By Charles Bremner in Brussels and Philip Webster

THE European Union settled the outline of a radical reform to its costly system of farm subsidies yesterday, but Britain and France immediately insisted that the deal cost too much and needed more work. Farm ministers claimed that

they had achieved a break-through after three weeks of protracted negotiations in Brussels by devising a price and subsidy shake-up to curb the excesses of the £30 billion annual cost of the common agriculture policy (CAP).

While farmers across the Continent reacted with fury to planned cuts in their subsidised income, Franz Fischler, the EU Farm Commissioner said the spending overhaul, which trims guaranteed prices for beef, cereal and milk, was "the most far-reaching and comprehensive reform ever.

Nick Brown, the Agriculture Minister, who helped to



Here an EU directive, there an EU directive. directive. Old Macdonald had a farm, eieio...

tie up the deal at an all-night session, also called it "the most radical reform in the CAP since its inception". He said: "When fully implemented it will cut food bills by £1 billion a year, equivalent to £70 a year for a family of four."

Among other things, the re-form calls for the first cut in subsidies to dairy farmers and a pledge to end the milk quota system, long opposed by Brit-ain, in 2006. Britain's annual quota is also set to rise a little. The benefit to consumers

was challenged by the National Farmers Union, which gave a lukewarm welcome to the reform package. Ben Gill, the NFU leader, said: "I would like to think they would be passed to the consumer but the reality is that the propor-tion of the final retail price that the farm gate price makes is very, very small these days." However, the package was Continued on page 2, col 6

Cash freeze hope, page 13 Leading article, page 23

Premier League crisis as two quit

FOOTBALL was thrown into crisis last night after the Premier League's two most powerful officials were forced to resign over secret deals they allegedly made without consulting club chairmen.

Sir John Quinton, the chairman, and Peter Leaver, the chief executive, left after a stormy meeting at which they were told that England's lead-ing clubs had lost confidence in them. Despite insisting they had done nothing wrong, the pair accepted that their positions had become untenable.

Their departures throw the national sport into further turmoil after the sacking of Glenn Hoddle and the recent resignation of Graham Kelly, the Football Association's chief executive.

The latest row involved the appointment of Sam Chisholm and David Chance, two former BSkyB executives, as consultants on television deals. It is believed they were

offered annual contracts of £600,000 each, plus bonuses. A Premier League source who attended yesterday afternoon's quarterly management meeting in London said: "This had been rumbling on for a while and matters came to a

head. Feelings among the chairmen were strong." It is likely that Sir John and Mr Leaver will receive sizea-ble pay-offs. The futures of Mr Chisholm and Mr Chance were also in doubt.

Dave Richards, the chair-man of Sheffield Wednesday, was appointed acting chair-man and Mike Foster, Premier League secretary, as temporary chief executive. A working party was set up to see if the contracts with BSkyB, an associate company of News International which owns The Times, and the BBC could be renegotiated.

Wembley sold, page 8 Matt Dickinson, page 52

Sheep grazed before the dinosaurs came

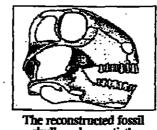
FROM SAM KILEY IN JOHANNESBURG

FOSSIL hunters yesterday revealed the skull of what they said could be mammals earliest ancestor: a creature which lived 250 million years ago be-side an inland sea in what is now South Africa.

Anomocephalus africanus was probably about the size of a sheep, although almost certainly considerably less intelligent. It is believed to be the first of the Amonodonts, which predated the dinosaurs

by millions of years. So called because of their teeth, these were the most common of the mammal-like reptiles known as therapsids, which evolved during the Permian period and vanished in the Jurassic era 180 million years later. These were thought to have

originated in Russia, but the discovery of Amonocephalus africanus means that scientists are having to rethink South Africa's role in evolution. Professor Bruce Rubidge, director of the Bernard Price Institute for Palaeontological



skull, and an artist's impression of the creature Research at the University of the Witwatersrand, said: "Our new find has allowed us to re-



ships of the Anomodonts, and to show that the South African portion of what was the prehisevaluate the family relationtoric super-continent of Gond-

hotspot 250 million years ago." The scientists have yet to determine whether Amonocephalus africanus had warm or cold blood, but Professor Rubidge said: "We have taken a guess at what colour it was. and its skin texture. This is a very significant find because its shows that Africa could have been the home of the distant ancestors of mammals." The Details of the discovery are available on the website

http://www.wits.ac.za/media/

press releases/anom.html



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Monkeys are left bemused in the organ grinder's absence

pologies for absence can invite more questhan they answer. MPs who scampered into the Chamber after morning coffee for Questions to the Minister of Agriculture thought to find the main man. Nick Brown, waiting there for them, hot off the plane from Europe, where, until the small hours, he had been hammering out an EU agricultural settlement. The morning news was full of the deal.

So where was Mr Brown? The Front Bench was almost empty. Alone on a that they hoped their boss

waste of empty green leather were a small junior minister, Jeff Rooker, and his plumper iunior ministerial pal, Elliot Morley. Big monkey, little monkey, no organ grinder. MPs were told Mr Brown was not yet back.

Why? Talks on the common agricultural policy had been completed in the small hours, leaving plenty of time for a little zizz, then a plane back. Suspicions intensified when Brown's juniors declined opportunities during questions to discuss the deal, insisting would be in today with a Commons statement.

One or two Labour backbenchers jumped the gun and praised Brown's magnificent achievement. Morley and Rooker did not seem too anxious to respond.

Maybe the Cabinet had not yet decided what line to take. Was this deal a revolution in agricultural policy, another remarkable triumph for Tony Blair's positive approach to Europe? Was it the best available in difficult circumstances, deserving measured, resigned approval? Or was it



a shabby compromise that Mr Blair will toss back as inadequate? "It does not much matter what we say," Lord Melbourne once shouted at the backs of his departing Cabinet. "But. mind, we must all say the same thing." The subject was the price of com.

What was the message now? Labour backbenchers felt their pockets for that reas-

suring buzz, but their pagers lay inert. No message to be

on, no message to be off. So Denis MacShane (Lab. Rotherham) decided to discuss something he did know about. "When I put the bacon in my frying pan, Madam Speaker," he complained, "a horrible white milky fluid appears, with bits of pink in it - just like the Tory benches Morley) remarked, rather priggishly, that he was not responsible for what went on in his hon friend's frying pan. At least MacShane called it

bacon. Ministers kept calling it pig meat. David Rendel (Lib Dem, Newbury) referred insistently to pork in his ques-tion about British pig farming but there's something refreshingly old-fashioned about Mr Rendel. "Watch out, Charlie!" shouted a Labour wag as Rendel rose: both Charles Kennedy and David Rendel are in the running for the lead-

opposite." The minister (Mr ership of their party. "No Morley) remarked, rather competition there, Charlie!" Labour shouted, as a low-key Rendel concluded a courteous and factual question.

Mr Kennedy smiled. Curiously, it seemed to be he who was acting as chief Liberal Democrat spokesman on agriculture, though that post is held by the notably expert Paul Tyler. Kennedy was making all the running. Tyler was

why? I made inquiries. The official line is that Mr Tyler is off discussing bananas. My guess is that, in a dark alley.

the small, wispy MP for North Cornwall has encountered two Kennedy henchmen

with a big sack. But it's not all sharp elbows and knives in backs at Westminster. Slow to rise with his question, quiet-spoken David Chaytor (Lab. Bury N) stammered "Forgive me" to Madam Speaker.

"Why?" shouted a Tory. " Cos he's a nice boy," came the returning cry from a Labour beach.

"And I'm a very forgiving Speaker." Boothroyd. cooed

Hackney council chief quits after schools clash

THE first privatisation of an education authority moved a step closer yesterday with the resignation of the chief execu-tive of Hackney council, in East London, days before the publication of a highly critical

inspection report Tony Elliston announced his departure after four years in the £100,000-a-year post amid plaudits from local politicians. But he is expected to be criticised for his relations with the borough's education de-partment when Ofsted reports on the authority.
David Blunkett, the Educa-

tion Secretary, sent a "hit squad" into Hackney in September 1997 after a first Ofsted report found serious weaknesses in its school system. Richard Painter, the businessman appointed to bring about im-provements, clashed with Mr Elliston over the restructuring of the authority, which had no chief education officer.

Liz Reid. an experienced official from Edinburgh was brought in to fill the post, but is said to have found her powers limited. The inspectors' report is expected to find that there has been little improvement since the authority's first

clash with the Government. Mr Blunkett announced in January that local authority services would be privatised if they were deemed unsatisfactoEducation in the borough may be privatised, write

John O'Leary and Hannah **Betts**

ry. Scores of firms applied for inclusion on a list of approved contractors.

Mr Elliston's resignation will be seen as part of a rearguard action to head off the possibility of privatisation. But ministers are understood to have already discussed a handover of key services. CIBT, a charitable trust which already acts as a consultant to a primary school in the borough which failed an Ofsted inspection, is the favourite to

Hackney councillors met with representatives of the Local Government Association on Wednesday evening to discuss strategies to keep control of the authority. One proposal involved the creation of an education action zone with the

City of London Corporation. An alternative involved the establishment of a Hackney Board for Education Standards, comprising some current councillors, representatives from neighbouring boroughs. members of the private sector and officials from the Department for Education and Employment. The LGA is known to favour the second option.

The association has asked Mr Blunkett to meet them for talks before any decision is made regarding Hackney's future. But ministers are known to be anxious not to allow uncertainty over the authority's future to drag on. Yesterday Estelle Morris.

the School Standards Minister, promised "decisive action" to secure better services in areas where local education authorities were failing, following an Audit Commission report on education services. Hackney was one of five authorities named by the Commission for their declining performance at GCSE at a time when most areas showed im-

Mr Elliston said he believed the foundations for continued improvements in Hackney's services were in place. "I have worked extremely hard over four years and there comes a time when you have to get a balance back into your life, especially when you have a wife and young family to consider."

Education, pages 42, 43



Mark Burnell, who impressed his publisher with his ability to write like a woman

A UNIVERSITY drop-out Third time who spent seven years trying to find a publisher for his novels has finally won a £200,000 deal (Dalya Alberge writes). Mark Burnell's third novel,

The Rhythm Section, was snapped up just a week after he sent off the manuscript. Susan Watt, publishing di-rector of HarperCollins, which is publishing the thrili-

er in a two-book deal, spoke of "original voice". She was struck by how he convinces the reader with his characterisation that "it is a woman talking". Commenting on his resilience during those seven

lucky for drop-out years, Burnell, 34, said yesterday: "I took the view that the

longer I spent at it, the harder

it was to give up." After dropping out of Dur-ham University just a year into his course, he took a se-ries of odd jobs including cleaning and barwork to support himself while he tried to write. Combining the two

proved difficult and when he came into a little money from his family, he was able to de-vote himself to writing full-

"I moved out of London, back to Northumberland to make the money go further," he said. But though the money dried up last year, he re-

fused to give up.

The Rhythm Section is the story of a woman living several different lives at once, he said. It is about the deliniation between those lives and the complications when one or other of the lives starts to infect the other. It is about living

NEWS IN BRIEF

Council tax in Sharket

Council tax bills in the shires are set le Dripper three times the rate of inflation this be visitors to the Jackson Charles of Taxiona Lackson Chartered Institute for Public Financtrospective who see nothfound. It said that average increases well macaroni. Others will London, 5.2 per cent in metropolitan art the energy, confounded lish counties and 8.4 per cent in Wales, ense of void.....Page 23 a survey by *The Times* last month, which

a survey by the times last month, which are as would be the hardest hit.

The three highest known rises are shire, with Band D up 17.9 per cent to £703. DELL per cent to £751; and Wandsworth. South per cent to £373.38. Ministers have said they the meaning of excessive rises but Richard Ottaway, Shadow hay has been less to the figures showed "trees." Local Government, said the figures showed "steepen's Budget He added: "Council taxes on ordinary families are efinimore than £100 a week a year higher than when Labour took steepens Rural areas will be hardest hit. Labour took steepens areas will be hardest hit. Labour took steepens areas will be hardest hit. money from these areas and gave it to Labour heartlands."

Sarwar admits lie

Mohammed Sarwar, the Labour MP for Glasgow Govan, agreed at the High Court in Edinburgh that he had lied over a £5,000 cheque from his co-accused, Mumtaz Hussain, He originally told his lawyer he was given the cheque during a meeting at Glasgow Airport as a guarantee on a loan to an election rival, Badar Islam. Mr Sarwar said that was a lie to protect his hard-earned reputation - the cheque was handed over in a sweetshop. He denies giving Mr Islam £5.000 to make a false polling declaration. The case continues.

Computers for poor

Poor families will be given recycled computers for as little as £5 a month as part of the Government's drive to prepare the workforce for the computer revolution. David Blunkett, the Education and Employment Secretary, unveiled a £400 million information technology package detailing the Chancel-lor's Budget commitments. Teachers will be offered subsi-dised loans from a £20 million fund to buy laptops for use at home as well as at school, and employees will be given tax re-lief on computers borrowed from their firms.

Plan for exotic wildlife

A new deal for the giant earwig, blue-faced booby and other exotic wildlife of Britain's dependent territories has been drawn up by the Government. Ministers have agreed that after years of underfunding, the forests, mountains and waters of territories from St Helena to Pitcairn Island deserve better protection and an Environment Charter, leading to eher laws to protect against the growing pro tourism, pirate fishing and development, will be unveiled by

Phone firms targeted

The Trade Secretary was urged yesterday to tackle extortionate rates charged by mobile phone companies as part of the Government's new campaign against "rip-off Britain". Consumer groups said that firms like Cellnet, Vodalone, One2 One and Orange should be among the first targets of new powers to crack down on retailers who charge more than their counterparts overseas after it emerged that the largest networks had hiked some off-peak charges by as much as

Adopted girl can stay

A Jamaican girl adopted by her grandparents can remain in Britain, despite Home Office opposition. Five Law Lords unanimously ruled that the needs of the 17-year-old were more important than wider immigration policy considerations. Allowing the grandparents' challenge to a Court of Appeal ruling, Lord Hoffman said: "In cases in which adoption would confer real benefits upon the child it is very unlikely that considerations of 'maintaining an effective and consistent immigration policy' could justify refusal of an order."

School drugs alert

A girl aged ten was semi-conscious in hospital last night and two of her classmates needed medical treatment after swallowing drugs that she had brought to school. The pills, thought to contain a sedative, were brought into the play-ground at Colliery Primary School, in Dipton. Co Durham. by the girl, who innocently handed out them out "like Smarties" to two nine-year-olds. Police said that they had arrested a 19-year-old man. They are treating the girls as innocent

Dog's Commons motion

Lucy. David Blunkett's guide-dog, made parliamentary history yesterday when it was sick on the floor of the House. The rare example of canine indiscipline came shortly after the Education and Employment Secretary finished a speech on the education provisions in the Budget. His Tory counterpart, David Willetts, rose to reply when the six-year-old black labrador-retriever cross made its feelings known. The dog was taken outside for some water. Mr Blunkett said lal-

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rules on war of the houses

Prescott

BY TIM JONES

MORE than 500 years after a crucial and bloody Wars of the Roses battle, John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, last night turned down permission for houses to be built on the

According to campaigners, including Robert Hardy, the actor, and Sir Jocelyn Stevens, chairman of English Heritage, the first battle of Tewkesbury, in 1471, was among the most important in English history. But the local council had rejected their claims that the 10-a-

cre field in Gloucestershire was steeped in history. The second war to be waged on the site, against the propos-al by Bryant Homes Mercia to built 51 houses, began in May, 1997, when Tewkesbury coun-

ment plan.

The bitterly contested public inquiry ended when Mr Prescott agreed with the inspector that the proposed develop-ment would have an irreversi-

cillors supported the develop-

bly damaging impact. Kelvin van Hasselt, of the Battlefields Trust, said: "This decision is a crucial planning precedent and indicates the importance the Government at-tached to the Battlefields Register." Chris Shaw, planning officer for the borough council said: "It is a shame that the democratic process has been overturned because of the pressure of an unelected body."

EU subsidy Continued from page 1

cast into doubt by France and Britain because the six-year reform will cost over £3 billion

more a year than the £30-billion ceiling set by EU leaders last month. "This does represent progress, but it is not satisfactory as far as we are concerned," said Tony Blair's spokesman. Jean Glavany, the French

farm minister, said: "The work remains unfinished. There is a risk that the accord will founder." The French and British doubts could cause the whole package to unravel when European leaders try to overhaul

the EU budget at a summit in Berlin on March 24. Freezing farm spending at close to current levels was a prime objective for London. Paris and The Germans, who were determined to broker a deal to clear the ground for Berlin, said they had achieved the

best possible compromise. The negotiation was complicated

by a French refusal to have anything to do with a Germanbacked scheme which would have required governments to shoulder part of the farm bill from their national budgets. While Mr Brown's negotiating skills were praised when the Cabinet discussed the deal yesterday morning, Mr Blair

and Gordon Brown, the Chan-cellor, made plain that further reform would be needed. Britain believes that the EU's stated aim of stabilising its overall spending at today's real terms level in the year 2006 is unattainable.

British sources accept that the French stance probably makes such a goal unrealistic.

London may get electronic election

By JILL SHERMAN CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LONDON'S five million electors could be the first in the country to use an electronic voting system when they choose their

Mayor and Assembly members on May 4 Nick Raynsford, the junior Environ-ment Minister, said he would look at different methods of using electronic systems to replace the traditional pencil-andballot-paper method of voting. One obvi-ous benefit would be much earlier declara-

tions of results. The top option now being considered is

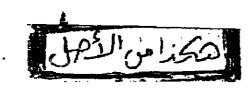
the use of an electronic machine installed in a booth in a polling station. The voter would then merely touch a button to enter their choices. But the elections next May will be highly complex, involving four dif-ferent votes, and the government is open

to other suggestions. There will be two votes for the London Mayor, a first and second preference. If no candidate gets more than 50 per cent all candidates except the top two are eliminated and second preferences re-distribut-

In addition, however, there will also be two votes for members of the new assembly. Each elector can vote for a candidate

in their constituency as well as casting a separate vote for the party of their choice. Mr Raynsford announced yesterday that he would now invite companies to send in their own ideas for providing electronic equipment.

Ken Livingstone, the MP for Brent who has accused the Labour leadership of trying to block his candidature, was delight ed by the news. He said that under the old system it would have taken about two days to count the votes, but an electronic system could announce the result within an hour. "Instead of waiting until 4am for the results in Brent, I can be out celebrating at my victory party," he said.



Body exhumed in 29-year mystery of dead children

By Stewart Tendler CRIME CORRESPONDENT

DETECTIVES have reopened their inquiries into the deaths of two children after 29 years to see if they were the victims of paedophiles. Police have exhumed the body of an 11-year-old girl in the hope that scientific advances could provide new clues.

The body of Susan Blatchford was found with that of Gary Hanlon, 13, in a shallow grave in Epping Forest in June, 1970. The cause of their deaths, in what became known as the Babes in the Wood case, was never established.

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Gary's body was cremated, but police hope that Susan's body could corroborate information they have received about the cause of death. Scientific advances could show the possible use of drugs by an attacker, and evidence of an attack or an assault. Scotland Yard confirmed yesterday that Susan's body had been exhumed from a churchyard in Enfield, North London. Samples were taken by a pathologist and the body was reburied within 24 hours as forensic scientists began tests. The exhumation was carried out after



'Babes in wood' deaths remain a mystery



Susan Blatchford, left, and Gary Hanlon, and a headline from the inquest in 1970. Now police hope that scientific advances could help to solve the case

police under Detective Chief Inspector Robin Scott worked for months to substantiate the new information. Susan's family agreed to the exhumation, which was authorised by the Home Office. The children disappeared from their

had asked Gary if he wanted to go for a tists in the early 1970s to find very much. could not tell if death was from foul play At the inquest, the pathologist, James Cameron, said that Gary's clothes had not been disturbed, but that Susan's stock-ings, pants, bra and shoes had been removed. He said that the clothing could have been removed by animals and he

or exposure. The Coroner, Charles Clark, recorded an open verdict.

Afterwards Muriel Blatchford, the girl's mother, said: The only animal that could remove Susan's bra, pants and

Detective Chief Superintendant Leonard "Nipper" Read, who led the investigation. said he had always believed the deaths were murder. Mr Read, who also led investigations into the Kray twins, said: "I was always convinced, but there was so little to determine the cause of death."

The case was reopened briefly in 1984 and then a second time three years ago by officers from a murder squad in North London after they were given new information. The Yard has refused to discuss the source of the new inquiry in the hope that the informant could provide more

Scientific advances over the past decade include DNA techniques that can identify suspects from a particle of hair or a flake of skin, and toxicology tests that can identify a wide range of chemicals from minute samples. Traces of opiates and barbiturates can be identified in hair and nails. Teeth may also hold traces of a drug.

Fingerprint work means that more and more surfaces can now yield prints includ-ing plastic surfaces such as bags. Uncovering fibres and making matches has also

Kubrick film clip ruled too explicit

THE first scenes from Epes Wide Shut, the final fibn made by Stanley Kubrick, were released yesterday and promptly judged too explicit to

be shown on television. Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman are seen naked and having sex in front of a large mirror in the 90-second trailer that the film director, who died on Sunday, made to show cinema owners.

The movie has been almost ree years in the making. exacting standards.

the ShoWest convention for Traumnovelthe film industry in Las Vegas Schnitzler. on Wednesday, but the Ameriten seconds.

One television announcer

sion audiences. It has not even been rated because there are tween Kidman and Cruise."

In Australia, one television network placed a roll of negative film across the couple's naked bodies while others would show only shots of them kissing. Cruise and Kidman, who

are married in real life, play psychologists who are married but cheat on each other largely because of Kubrick's play by Frederic Raphael, which explores sexual jealousy The trailer was released at and obsession, is based on Traumnovelle, by Arthur

The trailer, which was not can television networks considing intended for a general audi-ered it too risqué and cut it to ence, is not likely to be seen in its entirety in Britain for some time. Trailers cannot be said: "Large portions of this trailer are unsuitable for televi-



walk one afternoon. There was specula-

tion that they had run away together. The

bodies were found by a man walking his

dog about 30 minutes walk from their



en the film a certificate. That will not be for several months, since Eves Wide Shut is not expected to be released here until the summer, several weeks after its release in the States.

Julian Senior, marketing vice-president for Warner Bros. said: "This is not intended as an all-audience trailer; it is an excerpt that was chosen

by Stanley Kubrick to give cinema owners a sense of the

The film was Kubrick's first since Full Metal Jacket in 1987...The director, who also made A Clockwork Orange and 2001: A Space Odyssey, had been adding the final touches when he died at his

Nurses warn of danger in using essential oils

ESSENTIAL oils can be dan-gerous, especially to children and pregnant women, nurses said yesterday.

With aromatherapy now one of the most fashionable of all complementary medicines, delegates attending the Royal College of Nursing's annual congress in Harrogate called for better labelling and more regulation of the use of oils to stop them becoming a health hazard.

Essential oils used in aromatherapy are distilled essences derived from plants. There are about 30 commonly used essences, ranging from basil and bergamot to lavender,

rose, sage and teatree.

Retail sales of such oils increased by 70 per cent between 1992 and 1994, according to the latest available figures, but that rate is known to be accelerating. Sales now top £14 million a year and the number of practitioners registered with the Aromatherapy Organisa-tions Council has soared from 2,500 to 6,000 in seven years.

The council has a code of conduct for members, but it represents only those therabists who are prepared to abide by its rules. At present, anybody can set up as an aroectronic elections matherapist and there is no control over or licensing of the products they use or sell.

Although reputable makers sell high-quality products, pric-es can be high. Because there

Ian Murray on aromatherapy risk to children and pregnant women

price versions containing a very low proportion of essential oils are increasingly availa-ble on market stalls, where they find buyers among fashion-conscious out poorer cus-

Kath Ryan, a nurse and trained aromatherapist from Birmingham, told the congress that even the best essen-

are no proper regulations, cut-tial oils were dangerous if used in strong concentrations. If too much was used, the oils could cause rashes, skin burning, nausea and vomiting. Pregnant women using them had miscarried and there was evidence that the oils could

cause liver disease. "The labelling of a lot of oils is insufficient and only tells you to put a few drops in a



Essential oils can harm children, nurses have warned

not to take it internally," she said. "The label usually does not tell you what oils are there and names are given in Latin, which doesn't mean anything to most people." She said manufacturers of

good-quality, pure oils were always willing to send information about their products, but users might still not understand how to use and dilute them to ensure that they would not cause harm.

"People just don't realise how strong these oils can be." she said. "Just by smelling them you can lift molecules out which will start circulating in the bloodstream. These oils are natural products but they are potent."

Miss Rvan is conducting a three-year research trial at Birmingham Women's Hospital using essential oils on patients to reduce high blood pressure before operations. She said that she has been able to give an aromatherapy massage and reduce the blood pressure of patients who were anxious before an operation.

Carole Cunningham, a nurse and aromatherapist from York, said: "We would also like to see the companies who sell these oils having specific knowledge about what they are selling, and there needs to be better regulation about the training and education of aromatherapists."

USES AND RISKS

Sweet femals, steam distilled from conshed seeds. Muscle relevant, stimulates breast mile. Should not be used by pregnant wom-ent, epileptics, children thater sh.

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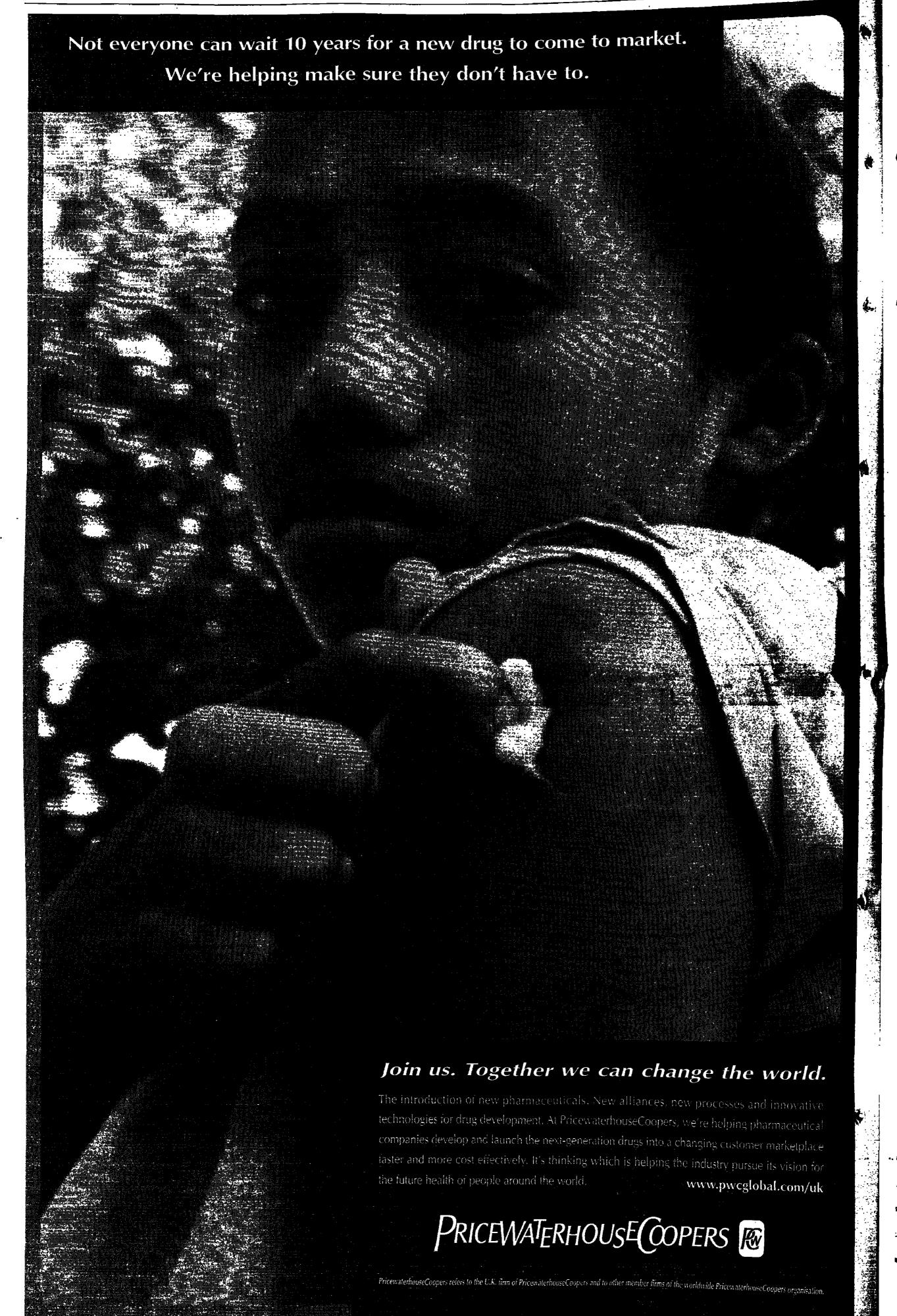
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Exil



Fans may not get into big fight

By Richard Co.

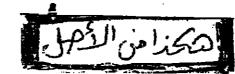
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Exile who may have found a home at last

HE HAS been the most controversial man to come out of Egypt since Moses. And like that Prince of the Nile, Moharned Al Fayed has been in excile for most of his life. It was Moses's brother, Aaron, who eventually made it to the Promised Land. And it has been Mohamed Al Fayed's brother, Ali, who has succeeded in the long quest for the promised passport. But this morning Mo-hamed has good reason to believe that he may go one better than his Pharaonic predecessor and live to secure his

Jack Straw's statement yesterday strongly suggests that Mr Al Fayed is on approval. The decision to grant his brother citizenship, and the related announcement that passage of time has rendered otiose a critical Department of Trade and Industry report, implies that, if Mohamed can keep his nose clean, he can place his hands on that little maroon book. Mr Al Fayed's desire to acquire a British passport is, like so much of his life, overlaid by

myth and complicated by in-trigue. He has spoken in the past of his romantic attachment to Britain, having been inspired by the sight of Her Majesty's sailors steaming through the Suez canal. His desire to join the British establishment led him to hope that his own son might walk down the aisle with Her Majesty's daughter-in-law in the pristine white of those sailors.

But that dream died, along with Diana and his beloved son Dodi in a Paris tunnel on that tragic night in August 1997. It was the most grievous of many reverses in a remarkable career. But it has been a career almost more notable for Mr Al Fayed's resilience and recoveries from his wounds, whether self-inflicted or perpetrated by enemies.

He was born into an ob-scure and genteel poverty he would rather forget, and great-ly resents others picking over. The son of an Alexandria

Michael Gove traces the Fayeds' quest for a passport and suggests Mohamed's wait will not be long

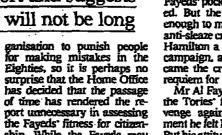
schools inspector, he was ashamed of his father's mod-est background, remarking of him in later life, "He was useless." His past was certainly of no use to him and his brother when they launched their bid for Harrods. It was as princes of Egypt that they mounted their purchase. And it was for allegedly exaggerating their in-dependent wealth that they were subsequently criticised.

But the Home Secretary is clearly determined to allow the past that Mr Al Fayed has done so much to obscure to be forgotten. The DTI report into the brothers' takeover of the House of Fraser was critical of their attempt to exaggerate the grandeur of their status. The inspectors concluded that they had lived in an Alice in Wonderland world where "lies were the truth and the truth was a lie".

The brothers vigorously contested a conclusion that they believed was motivated by rac-ism and malice. And if they were unlucky in the choice of inspectors, they were lucky in their main assailant. Their rival for House of Fraser had been the German-born tycoon Tiny Rowland, and it was his energetic opposition that had coloured the report.
But Mr Rowland, a former

member of the Hitler Youth, was hardly a sympathetic figure. Mr Al Fayed's biographer, Tom Bower, believes that it was distaste for Mr Rowland that belped the Fayeds to keep their prize. Sir Gordon Borrie, then the Director-General of the Office of Fair Trading, advised the DTI that "the Monopolies Commission does not exist to punish people for lying. The shareholders got the cash. Morality

New Labour is the last or-



the Fayeds' fitness for citizenship. While the Fayeds may have been guilty of sharp prac-tice during the Harrods fight, they still delivered by paying the agreed price. The Fayeds also delivered during another fight where sharp practice occurred, a fight that saw Labour rather than House of Fraser shareholders reap dividends. As part of their long cam-

eign for citizenship, the Rayeds used their money to buy British MPs. One, Tim Smith, resigned after his finan-cial relationship was revealed. His admission in the run-up to the last general election made the stain of sleaze on the Tories

other former minister, Neil Hamilton, was also in the Fayeds' pocket are still contested. But the allegations were enough to make Martin Bell's anti-sleaze crusade against Mr Hamilton a theme of the 1997 campaign, a theme which became the crashing coda to a requiem for the Tories.

Mr Al Fayed took delight in the Tories' fall, an act of re-venge against an Establishment he felt had betrayed him. But his attitude towards the Establishment has always been ambivalent

He sponsored the Royal

Windsor Horse Show to show his support for the monarchy. just one of a string of charitable endeavours that saw him walk with the well-connected. His most successful invasion of grand circles came with the romance between his son and Diana, Princess of Wales. Although Mr Al Fayed's claims that the couple were to become engaged can never be authenticated, it was, observers attest, a genuine romantic friendship. The confusion and bitter-



A Harrods shop window yesterday. Mohamed Al Fayed's long wait for British citizenship may soon be over

ness provoked by conflicting accounts of responsibility for their death have left a bitter aftertaste. But the loss of a beloved son and his lover inspired sympathy even from those not

enamoured of him.

Mr Al Fayed has not had to work hard to make enemies. He fell out with his first business partner, the arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi, whose sister was Mohamed's first wife. An earlier search for a passport took him to Haiti, which he left after complications with a diplomatic document and the undying wrath of the coun-

try's ruler. Papa Doc Duvalier. Other business colleagues blanch at the man's name, but some unexpected figures speak up for him. His role in supporting sterling during a past crisis is referred to favourably by some Tories, and he has recently found a persuasive evangelist in Kevin Keegan, manager of his Fulham football team, whom he own passport in the post.

has released to manage England. In having Keegan pay generous tribute to him, Mr Al Fayed has reached parts of the country even Harrods hampers couldn't. If Keegan proves to be England's passport to football glory, then perhaps Mohamed might find his



not get into big fight

BY RICHARD DUCE. AND JAMES BONE

THOUSANDS of British box-ing fans will arrive in New York this weekend to discover that tickets they bought for the most important heavyweight bout in decades do not exist.

Some 6,000 British fans are expected for Lennox Lewis's match with Evander Holyfield but there were fears last night that barely half that number would get in to see it. Some could even be without an hotel

room for the night

Many of the fans arriving
for the fight at Madison
Square Garden tomorrow night will find that tickets pledged by agencies in Britain either never existed or have been sold on by American bro-kers at a higher price. It raises the prospect of Lewis supporters having to watch the fight on television in New York hotickets are changing hands at more than six times face value. Concern is such that Frank Maloney, the British promoter for the bout which will decide the undisputed world heavyweight champion, yesterday demanded an audience with

hange the work

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dolph Giuliani, who said he would be hapy to meet him. Mr Maloney said: "I have met fans who have told me they have been promised tickets and they are not here. My advice to fans is that if they do not have a ticket, stay at home

the Mayor of New York, Ru-

and watch it on television." After the disastrous allocation of football World Cup tickets last year, it is expected that there will be renewed calls for a system under which a company that sells a ticket to a sporting event is liable to rewind any money if the ticket

Fans may | First-wave students of surf sought

By Hannah Betts

THE world's first university degree course in surfing was unveiled yesterday with an en-try requirement of two B gra-des at A level. Up to 25 students are being sought for the three-year BSc at Plymouth

.The Surf Science and Technology programme will involve practical sessions as soon as conditions off the Devon coast allow, but the Beach Boys will be absent from the syllabus in favour of more academic pursuits.

Dr Malcolm Findlay of Ply-

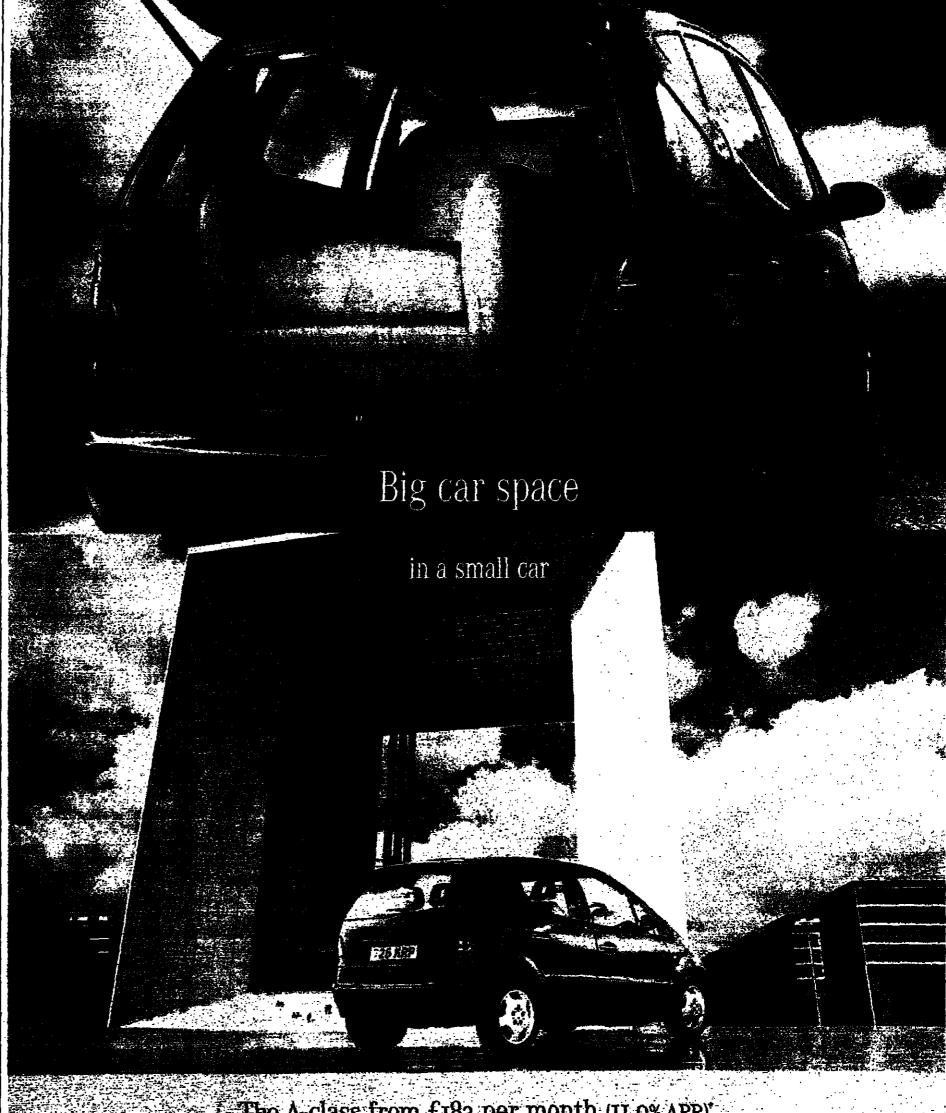
mouth's Institute of Marine Studies, one of the course's cofounders, is aware that it may sound like a beach burns charter, but he says there is a need for mortar boards in the multimillion-pound surf industry. "It is novel and we do expect

people's first reaction to be Hey, dude! Let's head to the beach and have a good time! But it simply won't be like that. Surfing is a recreational activity, but it's also a huge global industry that includes an awful lot of science.

This is the first academically rigorous surf science course in the world - we couldn't even find one in California." In their first year, under-

graduates will focus on oceanography, surling materials and business studies. In the second year, the course will encornpass human biology and human performance. For their finals, students will develop their own specialism within surfing science.

On the strength of current inquiries, the surfing dons are expecting a tidal wave of applications. From these beginnings Plymouth hopes to become a centre of excellence for surling sciences and even offer surfing



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Clegg cleared of murder but branded liar by judge

Sinn Fein says verdict is an insult to family of dead Belfast

teenager, reports Martin Fletcher

PARATROOPER Lee Clegg was acquitted yesterday of the 1990 murder of a teenage joyrider in Belfast despite being branded a liar by the judge.

Clegg, 30. wept at a verdict that ended a long legal battle to clear his name, but Mr Justice Kerr did find him guilty on a second charge of attempting to wound the car's driver. Clegg was released on bail until sentenced but legal experts said that he was unlikely to be re-imprisoned as he had already spent four years in

custody. Last night it emerged that Clegg's barrister had written to the judge and Northern Ireland Secretary during the retrial asking that he be released if convicted.

In yesterday's judgment Mr Justice Kerr called much of Clegg's defence "untruthful and incapable of belief" but said he could not be certain that Clegg had fired the fatal shot that killed 18-year-old Karen Reilly. "I think it very likely that he did but I cannot be sure of it." he said. Clegg's



Karen Reilly and the bullet-ridden stolen car in which she was a back-seat passenger

legal adviser said that neither the soldier nor his family immediately understood the verdict but when it was explained to them in a back room later they were "totally overwhelmed" and "broke down in tears". He will return to Eng-

Ms Reilly's father. Sean. left the court distressed but saying nothing. Sinn Fein called the verdict an insult to Ms Reilly's family and said that it "couldn't have come at a worse time when people are working very hard to build and consolidate the peace process".

When Lance Corporal Clegg was released from prison in 1995 there were riots in republican areas but the RUC was not on heightened alert last night.

Clegg cleared his name at his fifth hearing in six years be-

fore 13 different judges. The

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extraordinary legal saga, that has aroused deep passions on both sides of the Irish Sea. began on the night of September 30, 1990, when his 17-man patrol was manning a check-point on the Glen Road in republican West Belfast.

At midnight a stolen Vauxhall Astra sped towards the checkpoint. Clegg, 21 at the time, opened fire. His colleagues followed suit. The driver, Martin Peake, 17, was killed. So was Ms Reilly, his backseat passenger. A post-mortem examination indicated that she had been killed by a bullet from Clegg's rifle.

In the paratroopers' mess a montage appeared showing with the caption Built by Robots Driven by Joyriders. Stopped by Paras'. In 1991 Clegg was arrested and charged with murdering Ms Reilly and attempting to murder Peake. He was convicted in 1993 and sentenced to life nprisonment

He appealed unsuccessfully in 1994 but in July 1995 Sir Patrick Mayhew, then North-ern Ireland Secretary, freed him on licence after a huge campaign on his behalf in England that collected a million signatures. Riots erupted in Belfast and Londonderry but Clegg returned to his regiment as a physical education instructor and was promoted to lance corporal.

He appealed unsuccessfully to the House of Lords but last year had his conviction quashed and won a retrial after his lawyers presented fresh ballistic evidence. Mr Justice Kerr based yesterday's judgment on 4,000 pages of detailed technical evidence of Clegg's defence was that he shot the fatal fourth bullet that killed Ms Reilly at the side of the speeding car to defend himself and his colleagues, not at the vehicle's rear in what the prosecution alleged was an unustified use of force.

In his 189-page judgment. which took five hours to read. Mr. Justice Kerr dismissed as lies and fabrications many of the cornerstones of Clegg's

He said that Clegg had in-deed fired his last shot at the back of the car. Clegg had actually opened fire when the car was still some distance from any member of the patrol, and described evidence about where he was standing in relation to the other soldiers as "farrago of deceit and untruths".

He accused Clegg of lying

when he claimed that the car had struck one of the soldiers, and said that the soldier had subsequently been struck with a rifle butt by his colleagues to make it look as if he had been hit by the vehicle.

The judge rejected Clegg's "concocted" story that the pa-trol had just received an intellience warning of an imminent IRA attack in that area.

However, having given the court the impression that he was going to convict Clegg of murder, Mr Justice Kerr announced that he was not convinced that the paratrooper had fired the fatal shot through the back of the car.



Clegg, who wept when the verdict was explained to him, will return to England today

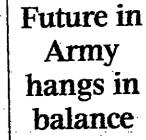
He said it was also possible that he and his colleagues genuinely believed that they ere in imminent danger.

"I am not prepared to convict in relation to the discharge of that shot," Mr Justice Kerr said. "He must, therefore, be

acquitted of the offence." Joe Hendron, West Belfast's nationalist SDLP MP at the time of the murder, did not directly criticise the judge but said that the two joyriders had been "summarily executed by the elite of the British Army" and the ruling showed there was one set of rules for soldiers and another for civilians. No paramilitary had ever been found in a joyrider's car.

However, Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist Party's security spokesman, expressed "relief that justice has been done". He said it was important to understand the intense pressure faced by young soldiers operating on the front line of a terrorist war and had

to make split-second decisions. Simon McKay, the para-trooper's legal adviser, said that Ms Reilly's death "will always be on Lee Clegg's



DOUBT again surround-Lance Corporal Clegg's future in the Army last night after his conviction on the charge of attempting to wound with intent was upheld. A prison sentence could result in his discharge.

However, since he was immediately reinstated in the Army when released from prison in July 1995, after serving four years for murder, it seems unlikely that he will be discharged if his planned appeal against the wounding conviction

The Army Board would hear representaer himself before making a decision. A spokesman for the Army said that Lance Corporal Clegg would stay in his job as a physical training instructor at the infantry training centre at Catterrick. Yorkshire until his legal case had been resolved.



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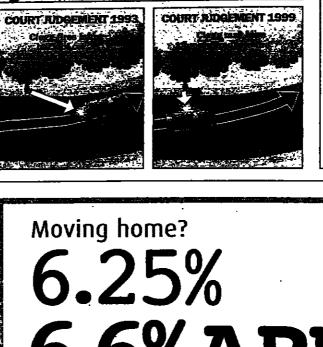
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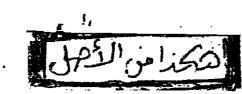
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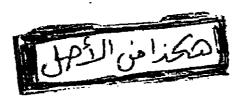
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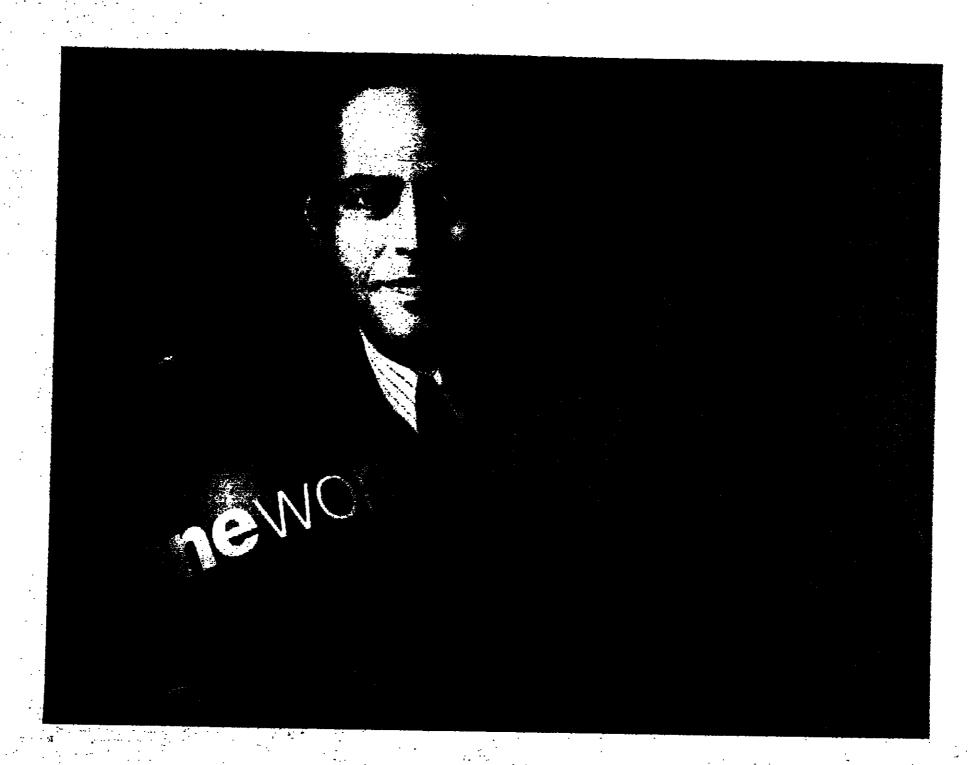
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Wembley is sold for £103m to FA-backed consortium

yesterday for £103 million to a consortium backed by the Football Association. The ground, with its famous Twin Towers. will be demolished and rebuilt.

A new 90,000-seater stadium - which the new owners said would be the finest in the world will now form the centrepiece of England's bid for the 2006 World Cup.

Demolition work will begin on the 76-year-old ground in northwest London next au-tumn, with a scheduled completion date of August 2003. The £20 million cost of retaining the twin towers puts their future in jeopardy.

Although the majority of shareholders opposed yester-day's sale, which leaves the neighbouring Wembley Arena concert venue in the hands of the present owner. Wembley plc, the block vote of City institu-

tions proved crucial.

Sir Bobby Charlton, one of the ambassadors for England's bid to bring the World Cup back

Work to rebuild stadium for 2006 World Cup bid will

start next year, write Adrian Lee and John Goodbody

the best bid in the world with Wembley behind it. We have had to be patient, but I am really pleased that it has now gone through and we can plan for the future." Sir Geoff Hurst, another supporter, said: "The name Wembley has a magnetism and excitement that is unique. That will not change.'

The tight rebuilding schedule could, however, cost Britain the 2003 World Athletics champion-

The stadium now: big changes are planned in the rebuilding

ships, which begin five months after the £300 million redevelopment is expected to finish. France could now secure the slot. Demolition work should begin after the millennium Cup

Final is held in the stadium. The decision to sell the stadium yesterday was opposed by three non-executive directors of Wembley plc and several inde-

bley complex, including the stadium, arena and conference pendent shareholders. Jarvis The promoter who brought Live Aid and the Three Tenors Astaire, the deputy chairman, to Wembley also condemned the sale of the stadium to the Football Association consorti-um. Barely able to conceal his anger, Harvey Goldsmith said:

too low.

"I think it is appalling. It is the most ill-conceived deal I have ever heard of." He described Wembley as "the biggest brand name in the world" and said that the decision to split the stadium's management from the neighbouring arena would prove disastrous.

argued that the offer from the

The rebels favoured a bid by

na. a former swimming pool with a capacity of 10,000, would now lie untouched for years while the stadium was redevel-

English National Stadium De-The whole site should be development Company - the veloped at the same time, as one name of the consortium - was entertainment complex of which the country could be proud. Now what we are going to see is the stadium rebuilt in the midthe American company SFX, of dle of a mess. All this rubbish about the World Cup — you £220 million for the entire Wemcan't have it in the middle of a bomb site."

He was also scathing about the prospect of the Football Asso-ciation running the stadium. "Look at how the FA runs the FA. That speaks for itself."
The new-look Wembley.

home of the FA Cup Final since 1923, will include a hotel, banqueting centre, restaurants and Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, welcomed the decision and promised that the new

ground would be the best in the

Looking ahead: Sir Bobby Charlton and Sir Geoff Hurst at Wembley yesterday

SO BIG IT COMES IN

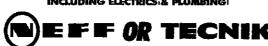


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Flood repairs to await dry-out

BY PAUL WILKINSON NORTH EAST CORRESPONDENT

IT COULD be months before people caught in the Ryedale floods can begin full restoration of their homes and businesses. Insurers facing a bill of up to £100 million have said that owners must wait until properties have dried out completely before starting repairs. Last night, officials warned

people to keep out of the flood water as it could be contaminated with raw sewage. A North Yorkshire council spokesman said: "Those with children should take care to stop them playing in the water. It could be a source of serious infections. We have been assured by Yorkshire Water that the drinking-water sup-

plies remain clean." Vic Rance, of the Association of British Insurers, said that if people rushed to put things right before all dampmake things worse. He said: "Insurers should be moving fast when it comes to payouts, but obviously people have to allow their homes to dry out and this could take a few months."

The association has already made comparisons with flooding which hit the Midlands last April, costing insurers more than £100 million. Mr Rance said: "The damage in Ryedale could be as much." The Environment Agency said it would be at least a week before the water levels had dropped enough for the clean-

up operation to begin. More than 200 homes and at least 100 business have suffered in the worst floods since records began more that a century ago. Many had just a few inches of water in the ground floor. but some had water up to 5ft

Local trading standards officers yesterday warned residents to beware of cowboy builders who may target the area and add to their misery.

NEWS IN BRIEF Assault on vandal unjustified

A man who caught a youth vandalising one of his fleet of buses was ordered to do 100 hours of community service after tying the boy's legs with wire and threatening to throw him into the docks.

At Cardiff Crown Court, Judge David Aubrey told Gordon Fifield, 53,of Barry, South Glamorgan: "There can be no justification for the way you reacted." The youth. 14, was conditionally discharged.

Coma teenager

Lincolnshire health authority is to continue paying £1,400 a week to treat a boy in a coma since last April. Gregory Dy-gas, 17, from Louth, was said to be brain-dead, but is semiconscious and improving.

Website abuse

Abusive messages, purportedly sent between pupils at The King's School in Ely and at the City of Ely Community Website aimed at tourists. The schools are investigating.

Early visitor

A 12ft basking shark has been reported off Land's End, believed to be the earliest in the year that a shark has been sighted off the southwest coast since records began, the Wildlife Trust reported.

Confession call

Roman Catholic bishops are calling on the 4.2 million Catholics in England and Wales to go to confession before the next millennium. A booklet 🔝 published next month sets out the importance of confession.

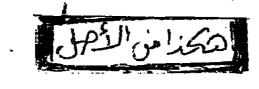
ArtWatch lecture

Tickets for the ArtWatch lecture tonight at Burlington House, London, will not, as stated in a report yesterday, be available on the door.

TODAY IN Section Z Read all about the ex-greffsend of the boyinged of the ex-wife of the boytriend of Anthea Turner. Tabloid lunacy page 40







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Flood repairs to await dry-out

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THE TIMES FRIDAY MARCH 12 1999

Prince is caught in election infighting

As royal party arrives in Uruguay, Alan Hamilton reports on the fallout from that Falklands speech

THE Prince of Wales left for the powerful and lucrative Argentina after a three-day post of Governor of Buenos official visit yesterday with the feeling that he had become a pawn in the country's internal politics as it moves towards a

Fallout from his speech on the Falkland Islanders' right to self-determination contin-ued to dog him on his last day in the country before flying across the River Plate to the safe neutrality of Uruguay,

where he will spend two days before visiting the Falklands. His visit to Uruguay will em-phasise its developing com-mercial relationship with Britain. Last night the Prince laid a wreath at the memorial to General Artigas, the Uruguayan national hero, and dined at

the President's palace. Today he will meet business people and tomorrow flies to the naval base at Punta del

'ROW' DISMISSED

Relations between Argentina and Britain are expected to be undamaged by the spat in Buenos Aires (Michael Evans writes). The Argentinian Foreign Minister and the country's Ambassador to Britain fully approved the Prince's remark about Argentina needing to live "amicably" with its offshore neighbour, and the Foreign Office was sanguine. Rogelio Pfirter, the ambassador, said: "We have said that we have no quarrel with the po-litical reference made by His Royal Highness and, from our side, there is no row."

Este, where Britain has supplied much of the equipment. The Prince was to have visited a shanty town on the outskirts of Buenos Aires yesterday, but the engagement was cancelled by his Argentinian hosts. Carlos Ruckauf, the Vice-President, who called the Prince's speech "intolerable", said that the visit had been cancelled because the Prince's safety could not be guaranteed.

However, royal itinerary officials said that there was simply not enough time to make the journey to the edges of the vast city.

Señor Ruckauf is expected to stand in the October elections

. . .

Aires province. Fernando de la Rua, on the other hand, is the opposition Alliance Party can-didate to succeed Carlos Men-

em as the country's President. He is head of the Buenos Aires city government, and yesterday was host to the Prince at an exhibition of British architecture in the city. Sud-denly, however, he directed the Prince into a side room for

private audience. "President Menem had his private talk with the Prince on Tuesday: his rival appeared not to want to be outdone," one of the Prince's staff observed.

Guido di Tella, the country's Anglophile but outgoing For-eign Minister, hailed the Prince's visit as a great success. "Of course there are a few people who disagree," he said. "We have extremists, and also politicians who are playing local politics."

Tony Lloyd, Minister of

State at the Foreign Office. which sent the Prince to Argentina, said: "Prince Charles made the kind of speech that was parallel to the speech that President Menem made in London last year. We know we have differences on the Falklands. It is legitimate, though, to talk about a peaceful way of containing that process." The country's Lower House

of Congress has voted by a 159 majority that any attempt by Señor Menem to seek a third term as President would be a violation of the Constitution and a usurping of power. The vote does not have the

weight of law but carries a strong political message. Caror minister, has said that Señor Menem had not made up his mind about running. Buenos Aires newspapers were still reeling yesterday at the Prince's speech. La Nación, under the headline "Only a sentence, but what a

sentence!", said that Señor Menem and his Government were taken by surprise by the Falklands remarks, and speculated that the speech was a cod-ed hint of eventual Falklands independence from Britain.

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Leading article, page 23



The Prince of Wales meeting spectators after his polo team beat the Hurlingham Club 9-7 in Buenos Aires

Next stop: land of the full monty

HAVING done his bit for Anglo-Argentine ships, the Prince of Wales next pays a call on Uruguay, one of South America's small-

The Oriental Republic of Uruguay, sandwiched on the South Atlantic coast between Argentina and Brazil, is about the same size as mainland Britain. The population is only three million, half of which lives in the capital, Montevideo.

The next most famous town is Fray Bentos, which gave corned beef its brand name when a London meat firm be-

gan operations there in 1864. Wool is the principal export and, it has been suggested, the origin of the expression (and film title) "the full Monty". The best sheepskins were said to have come from Uruguay and were shipped from Mon-tevideo, so that fleecepackers

graded them as "full Monte". The country's best-known writer is Juan Carlos Onetti (works include No Man's Land and A Brief Life), but other famous Uruguayans tend tavo Poyet, the Chelsea midfielder, and Pablo Lemoine. who plays rugby union for **Bristol**

Uruguay won the inaugural World Cup in 1930, beating Ar-gentina 4-2 at home in the fi-nal. It failed to qualify for France 98, being beaten in the

qualifiers by Argentina. Since winning its independence from Spain in 1825, Uruguay's politics have been dominated by two parties, the Colorados, ("reds", or Liberals) and the Blancos ("whites", or Conservatives). Their rivalry punctuated the 19th century

with frequent civil wars. Thanks to José Battle Ordónez, the Colorado Presi dent in 1903-1907 and 1911-1915, Uruguay became the first welfare state in Latin America. Recently the two traditional parties have been in coalition to keep a left-wing alliance out of power.

Among the idiosyncracies Uruguayan law, it is notable that a husband who finds his wife in bed with another man can claim the right to cut off her nose and castrate her to be sportsmen, such as Gus-



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Women urged not to desert cancer testing

ROUTINE breast CANCET screening in Britain is now as good as the high standards reached in the clinical trials that led to it being introduced ten years ago, according to Juli-etta Patnick, national co-ordinator for the NHS breast-

screening programme. Staff involved in clinical trials are usually better trained and more highly dedicated than those doing routine work, so their results tend to be better. Ms Patnick admitted yesterday that screening was not 100 per cent accurate. but she believed the pro-. gramme was saving more than 1,000 lives a year.

She said that, despite this, some women were cancelling appointments for a screening

than 600,000 women who had been screened showed no significant reduction in death from the disease. The study. published this month, also said that 4,000 women were having operations and breasts removed unnecessarily after screening led to incorrect diagnoses of cancer.

"If women cancel, that is up to them," Ms Patnick said. "Only three out of five women [in Britain] come for a screening. But we have carried out ten million of them, far more than the Swedish study. It will take eight to ten years before we can definitely say we are sav-ing lives, but we believe it is saving 1,000 lives a year or more."

Sweden pioneered breast cancer screening, but Goran Sjonell, one of the team in-

said that screenings had probably been introduced there only because clinical trials gave a wrong impression of how useful a programme would be. We think that the findings illustrate the difference between trial conditions and real clini-

The Swedish study, which appeared in the journal Lakartidningen, has been strongly criticised by Mans Rosen, deputy director general of the National Board of Health and Welfare in Stockholm. Writing to the British Medical Journal, he said that the research would not have passed the tests for peer-reviewed publica-tion in the BMJ or "other distinguished journals". The re-searchers had not considered, for instance, that breast-cancer incidence trends varied among the 18 Swedish county councils studied, thereby influ-

encing mortality trends. The national board in Sweden had no plans to change its advice on breast cancer screening "based on such a defective study", he said.

Michael Baum, Professor of is still sleek, with emphasis on detail-Surgery at University College London, said that the Swedish ing, but, spurning Prada's gimmicks, Ortiz sticks with the refined approach report widened the debate suited to the Lanvin customer, and over how the NHS should allohopes to attract some new ones. Nevertheless, disco fever — which



Cristina Ortiz's autumn collection for Lanvin, in Paris, featured bootleg trousers, new-style boob tubes, and simple yet beautiful evening dresses

FROM DEBORAH BRETT IN PARIS

CRISTINA ORTIZ, the former design director of Prada, seems to be finally settling into her role at Lanvin. After three seasons the Spanish designer, 33, has managed to break away and create a look more her own. This

catwalk at yesterday's show, with glit-ter-speckled eyes, flowing tresses and hip-skimming molten leather trousers gliding down a mirrored catwalk. The look was long, lean and polished, with

Refined Ortiz finds may have seemed like sacks, but closeup looked more interesting. Forget regular darts: Ortiz constructed convex or a look of her own concave seams to create shapes that transformed the line of the dress. The simplest of dresses were made exceptionally beautiful and glittering, with has come to Paris this season — hit the catwalk at yesterday's show, with glit-comeback, and versions of the boob vermilion or turquoise sequins.

tube that were tight around the top

For evening, there were long skirts

and blousoned out around the waist.

Luxury went into overdrive: clothes were made from cashgora (cashmere and angora), cashmere stretch, double face cashmere and cashmere and angora polar fleeces.

and sherbet lime, which, from afar,

CALL FOR A SINGLE CANCER CENTRE

The public and private sectors should settle their differences, pool resources and establish a single UK Cancer Centre in London for research and training, according to Karol Sikora, the British oncologist who is in charge of the World Health Organisation's cancer programme (lan Murray writes).

Professor Sikora says in the British Medical Journal today that the need for a leading institution has never been greater, because cancer therapy is likely to change soon with new treatment strategies. "What is needed to bring this concept to fruition is political will and capital investment by the public and private sectors," he says. "This would defuse the interpersonal bickering that characterises hospital and university mergers."

40% of GPs | Nurses admit to racism in NHS

THE increase in violent attacks by patients on doctors and other staff is prompting the creation of a "fortress

attacked

by patients

NHS" (Ian Murray writes).
A survey published today in BMA News shows that four out of ten GPs and a quarter of all hospital doctors have been assaulted by the patients they were trying to treat. The trend has persuaded four out of five family doctors to introduce se-

curity measures. "I feel wary when at work," said Jennifer Langdon, a Berkshire GP. "All staff are trained in security matters and we have panic buttons in every room and closed-circuit television." A Somerset GP said: "We are more like Fort Knox

John Chisholm, chairman of the BMA's GPs' committee, said it was very worrying. "Doctors and their staff are increasingly in the line of fire for violence, the threat of violence and verbal abuse."

PILLSTEN

By Ian Murray THE Royal College of Nurscare to patients if we value all ing admitted yesterday that institutionalised racism existed among nurses and was blocking the careers of ethnic

minorities in the National Health Service. In an emotive debate, during which some black nurses ran crying from the hall, Christine Hancock, the general seccongress in Harrogate that, as the sixth largest union in the country, members reflected the strengths and weaknesses of society.

"I have to tell you I do not believe the RCN is any freer of institutionalised racism than any other large organisation," she said. "It is difficult for those of use who are white to really know and understand these issues. Whitening black people so we don't notice them isn't the answer. It's valuing their blackness.

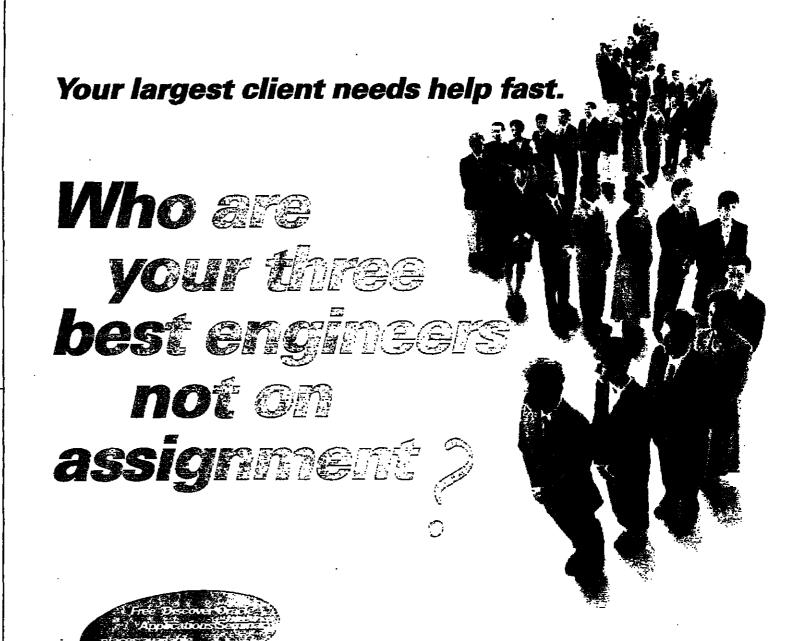
"We can only give the best

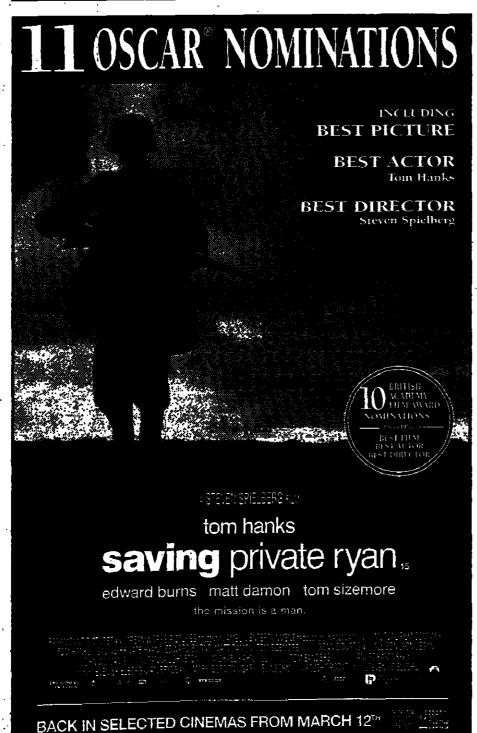
our colleagues. We must listen when they tell us about their experience of racism."

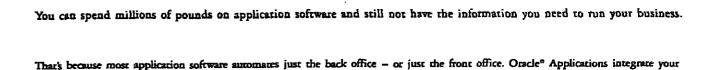
Margaret Moore, a nurse tutor from London, said she was reluctant to recruit students from ethnic minorities because she did not want them to be treated as she had been. "I am visible as a black woman and a nurse," she said. "I am here to stay and I want my contribution of over 30 years to health care to be recognised." A motion was carried overwhelmingly calling on the RCN to address issues related

to institutionalised racism. Christine Watson, the RCN president, said earlier this week that racism was widespread in the NHS. You're more likely to find black nurses working night duty, less likely to find black nurses promoted into specialist areas."

Schools racism, page 22







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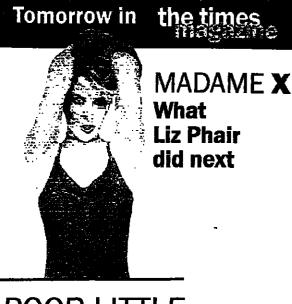
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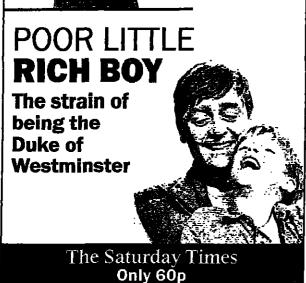
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IRA steps up exile punishments

'Peace process' has an ironic ring for those banished from Northern Ireland, writes Martin Fletcher

went to Mary O'Reilly's terraced home on Londonderry's grim Creggan estate one night last week. They barged inside as she opened the door. "Where's Gerry?" they demanded. Mrs O'Reilly said her 22-year-old son no longer lived there, but three of the men began searching the house while the one with the gun pushed her into the living room.
"What's this all about?"

asked Mrs O'Reilly. "You know, missus," the man replied. When she persisted he told her to ask at the local Sinn Fein office in the morning. The search proved fruitless. The armed man looked at the clock. It was 8.15pm. "Tell Gerry he has till 8.15 on Thursday - 48 hours - to get out of Derry for a year." he said.

Gerry had already gone. He, his pregnant girlfriend and their three-year-old daughter had fled two weeks earlier after the IRA visited his home on a neighbouring estate. He had escaped by climbing on to the roof. In 1995 he had spent

FOUR masked IRA men. in-cluding one who was armed, gang beat him with sledgegang beat him with sledgehammers and nail-studded clubs, then left him 10p to call an ambulance.

He is now living with his family in emergency accommodation provided by Northern Ireland's Housing Executive just outside the city. He has bolts on the doors and sleeps with two baseball bats by his hed. "He's a nervous wreck," said his mother. Mary O'Reilly is not her

real name. She dares not iden-

tify herself for fear of reprisals. Nor is her son's case in any way exceptional. In fact, he got off lightly. Loyalist and republican paramilitaries have exiled hundreds of people during the Troubles - petty criminals, the politically troublesome, those who threaten their rackets. Most were exiled from the Province, not just their communities. The practice is tolerated as a fact of life on Northern Ireland's paramilitary-controlled estates and those exiled are usually given 24 or 72 hours to get out.

vide them with tickets to England or Scotland and temporary accommodation. Because most left quickly and silently. their cases attracted little attention, said Vincent McKenna of Belfast human rights group Families Against Intimi-

dation and Terror (Fait). Unlike punishment beatings and kneecappings, "it's an easy someone without any outcry".

way for terrorists to get rid of Far from diminishing, the practice had "dramatically increased" during the ceasefire.

said a spokesman for one of the volunteer groups. Entire families were now being banished. The paramilitaries had to show that they were still in control. With each exile they were sending out the message:

"We have not gone away." Reliable figures are scarce. but that organisation is helping about two families and two individuals each month. Fait claims that 440 men, wornen and children were exiled last year, and 148 so far this. RUC spokesman confirmed that "the disgraceful practice of excluding people from their homeland is continuing at a worrying rate".

Mrs O'Reilly and her husband admit that their son is a petty criminal who has served four years for burglaries and

"He's not even a good thief - he gets caught," she said. But "if he did something house and three jails to deal with him". The IRA's summary justice was a travesty.

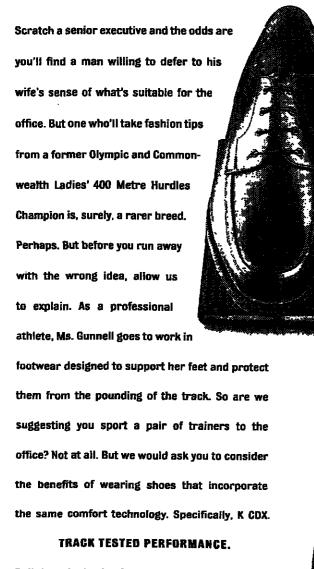
Both were early supporters of "the Ra". They participated in the original civil rights marches — including the Bloody Sunday protest in 1972

- because they were disgusted at how the police and Army treated Roman Catholics. But now "it's gone full circle and the IRA are doing everything that the Brits and police were doing, only worse. They have turned into the Mafia," said Mr O'Reilly.

The IRA ruled the estate through fear, the family said. We haven't had a ceasefire. The only difference is we're not being stopped and having our cars searched by the police and Army, but we're still waiting for the IRA to come to our door. They've called a ceasefire with the Army and the police, but not their own

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School has 50,000 reasons to cheer

AN INFANTS school in Warwickshire has become the first to collect more than 50,000 tokens in the Free Books For Schools Scheme (writes Han-nah Betts). This is enough for at least 500 books.

Stockingford Infant School in Nuneaton has enlisted the community in collecting the tokens from The Times, other News International newspary lunchtime teams of teachparents, grandparents and dinner ladies busy themselves cutting out tokens. which continue to pour in at a

rate of 1,000 per day. Nine local businesses, inciudine newsagents, a petrol station, pubs and post offices. have rallied behind them. Pam Gresty, the head teacher,



said: "We are lucky to be part of a supportive community What strategy are you using to galvanise collection? Call 0171-895-9018 and tell us about it (office hours only).

Token, page 26

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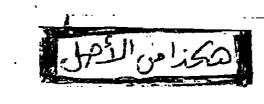
and heavy, they have a feel of value, something which is missing from today's tiddlers. You get an Uncirculated Crown, Halfcrown, Shilling, Sixpence, Brass Threepence, Penny, Halfpenny and Farthing. These coins were in use before decimalization. The set is housed in a specially printed display case, so

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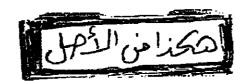
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Deal raises hope of EU cash freeze

THE TIMES FRIDAY MARCH 12 1999

DESPITE some grumbling the agreement on a new farm package brought cheer to European capitals yesterday. It shifts the biggest obstacle in the struggle to overhaul the way that the European Union raises and spends money.

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School has 511

reasons 10 @

"Things are starting to move now — we will find a solution," said Dominique Strauss-Kahn, the French Finance Minister, who is one of the key figures in the effort to wrap up a budget package on March 25 under Germany's EU presidency. The Germans say that they are now more optimistic that, at a summit in Berlin, Chancellor Schröder will manage to broker a deal on Agenda 2000, the most ambitious spending reform attempted by the EU.

Resolving the technical side of a farm package was a vital first step because the common agriculture policy swallows almost half the EU's annual budget of £60 billion. However, strains between a newly assertive Germany and its French partner could halt an early settlement. The wrangle over farm reform produced the sharpest friction for years between the two core states.

To achieve the overall reform target, however, the 15 leaders must agree unanimously on a solution to a mind-boggling equation. The aim, backed by most states, is to freeze overall spending for the next six years, a feat not previously attempted in the EU's history of ever-rising budgets.

At the same time, funds have to be set aside to prepare for the entry of new member states from the east and hard-

on first step to reform, but big battles lie ahead, reports Charles

line demands from member states must be accommodated. The main ones are Britain's insistence on retaining its special budget rebate, Germany's demand for a cut in its £8 billion annual contribution, and a refusal from Spain, Ireland and other poorer states to give up their lion's share of regional aid and special subsidies that account for a third of the

Bremner

Old hands from the business of EU financial horsetrading predict that the 15 will muddle through with a tangle of compromises that give just enough to each side to justify a claim to victory. The haggling could fail to produce a solution in Berlin and be carried on to a summit in Cologne in June.

Under fire from its EU partners for shaky management of the presidency so far, Germany is trying to narrow the options for a final compromise. This is likely to include limited sacrifices for the southern states, plus a more modest shift in the German contribution than originally demanded by Herr Schröder. Britain's rebate, worth about £2 billion a year, is almost certain to survive, but with a provision that

will not entitle it to money

back on its share of the costs of enlarging the EU to Poland, Hungary and other eastern states. Britain's isolation over its rebate was underlined yesterday when the European Parliament voted to end the money-back arrangement negotiated by Mrs Thatcher in 1984. It is still possible that the farm package could unravel, bringing down the whole spending edifice, over a fight on how to control the overall

spending edifice, over a light on how to control the overall cost. Germany, Britain and other states wanted a new system to hand part of the farm money back to member states. This would partly answer German demands for a cut in its share of the budget. Paris wants to limit farm spending and the EU budget by phasing out direct subsidies to farmers.

Both items are likely to go

back on the table in Berlin. In the meantime, foreign and finance ministers are embarking on a round of negotiations to pave the way to Berlin.

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Germany, Britain and
states wanted a new sysor hand part of the farm
by back to member states,
would partiy answer Gerdemands for a cut in its

THERE was "cautious optimism" at the settlement from
one farmer whose family
have been raising cattle and

son writes).

But Gordon Meek, who owns 400 acres at Ponteiand, is now considering diversifying into more profitable are as as his income declines. He

Farmers' optimism grows

growing cereal crops in has already seen profits drop Northumberland for more by about 80 per cent in the past five years.

The a lot better than we

"It's a lot better than we might have expected," he said. "The reports coming out of Brussels a couple of weeks ago were very discouraging. couple of weeks, but, on the face of it, the settlement is not too bad."

Subsidies for his 250 beef

cattle and 200 acres of winter wheat and barley at Eland Hall Farm will be cut by 20 per cent under the new agreeWe have got to accept that this is the way the future is going and adjust to deal with it," said Mr Meek.

"The beef price has dropped alarmingly over recent years because of the BSE crisis and we shall have to see how much the new figures take this into account. I was also worried about what the cut in the cereal intervention price might be, but it is not as steep as we first thought it

was going to be.
"I will now have to sit down
and look at alternatives. Orgames is one way forward,
but that is still a limited market and it requires a lot of in-

Topsy-turvy world where spending saves money

The days of lavish subsidies are numbered, reports Charles Bremner

YESTERDAY'S breakthrough in Europe's attempt to get to grips with its runaway farm budget offered a glimpse of the topsy-turvy world of the common agriculture policy: in order to cut the cost of subsidising farmers, European taxpayers will have to spend billions

Like everything involving the CAP, the odd arithmetic has a logic of its own, once you factor in the imperatives behind the 37-year-old system that pays farmers to produce food at higher-than-market prices and stops importers undercutting them. Put simply, the farmers have to be paid some £5 billion more in the next six years to wean them off

a system that would otherwise drive the European Union into bankruptcy.

The cuss of up to 20 per cent agreed yesterday in the EU's fixed prices for cereals, milk and beef are not spectacular, the towering beneficiary of the specific area of the towering beneficiary of the specific area of the towering beneficiary of the specific area of the s

paperwork for farmers.

However, the new accord will give producers a hefty shove towards market economics by bringing prices closer to world levels. To the anguish of many smaller farmers already

CAP, and an explosion in EU

producers will receive cheques for about only half their losses, beef farmers will get about 80 per cent and milk farmers will have 60 per cent compensation

for the time being.

The immediate spur for the latest reform was not the need, argued by Britain and the Nordic states, to slam the brakes on a cash machine that shovels half the entire EU budget into a sector that employs 5 per cent of workers. As the recipient of £700 million of annual subsidies and a cultural belief in the sanctity of the farmer, France was ready to extend the life of the machine that was de-

vised in a 1950s pact with Germany. This gave the Germans

an export market for manufactured goods in return for a France's huge and then inefficient farm sector.

The main spur for reform this time was twofold. The EU

guaranteed income

this time was twofold. The EU must comply soon with international trading rules that bar subsidies to farmers and exporters and it must also whip itself into shape before the entry, probably within ten years of Poland and four other states from the former Communist bloc. Applying the CAP to Poland, an inefficient agricultural giant where half the workforce is employed in agriculture, and its neighbours, would empty EU coffers.

would empty EU coffers.
The European Commission and farm ministers are putting great store by the way the

new reform recognises a

great ingenuity, claiming imaginary crops. The drive to combat the fraud has prompted EU inspectors to resort to satellite photography and other high-tech methods to measure true areas under planta-

tion. Farmers are likely to be

tempted by shady practices as

long as the subsidy system ex-

ists, according to Commission

support. Farmers, for exam-

ple, will be rewarded for envi-

ronmentally friendly methods.

posed to curb the scope for

fraud. With so much money

on offer, farmers have shown

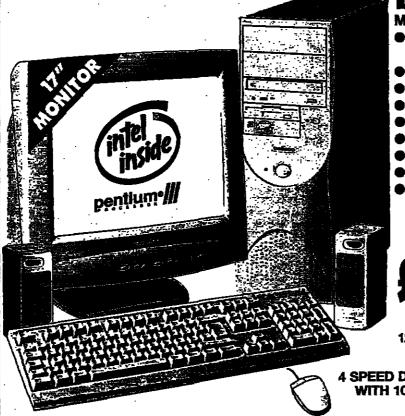
The reforms are also sup-

In the meantime, continental EU governments are bracing for another bout of demonstrations by angry farmers.

Leading article, page 23



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Anti-euro vote 'no guarantee of victory'

ANTI-SINGLE currency campaigners were warned yesterday that winning a referendum to keep the pound early in the next Parliament would only be the start of their struggle (Roland Watson writes).

Rodney Leach, chairman of Business for Sterling, said: "We would be asked to vote again until we come up with the right answer. It's a battle that would have to be won again and again." Mr Leach was speaking at a head-to-head debate in Westminster with Sir Clive Thompson, the proeuro CBI president, in the first of many such clashes

between opposing sides. Sir Clive said that busiess would desert Britain if it remained outside the single currency. He claimed that two thirds of businessmen wanted to see Britain sign up to the euro within the next five

Anthony Howard

Hereditary peers incited to revolt against expulsion

By JAMES LANDALE POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

HEREDITARY peers have received an extraordinary call to rise up in rebellion against the Bill which would expel them from the House of Lords.

Old-fashioned poster bills have been sent anonymously to all 600-plus hereditary members urging them to block the legislation when it comes before the Lords at Easter. The call to arms has been attacked by Tory and crossbench chiefs and dismissed as the work of a maverick crossbench peer trying to incite revolt.

But the poster provided a clear signal to the Government that some hereditary peers are prepared to go down fighting. And it was an uncomfortable warning to Tory chiefs that some hereditaries are beyond the control of party

whips.
The House of Lords Bill, designed to scrap the voting and sitting rights of hereditary

CALL FOR ACTION KILL THE BILL

week and its second reading in the Lords on March 29. The A3-sized poster says the rights of hereditary peers

should not be "lightly surren-dered". It also insists that peers should not be bound by the so-called Salisbury Con-vention under which the Lords agrees not to throw out legislation contained in an incoming Government's manifesto.

It ends: "You must attend the second reading debate and kill the Bill," before adding: he game's afoot." If the Bill were to be rejected at second reading — some-thing the Lords never does — it would die immediately. The Government would almost cer-

tainly reintroduce it under the

Parliament Acts and force it

onto the statute book. It is possible that an amendment is tabled at second reading but would almost certainly be de-Lord Strathclyde, the Tory

leader in the Lords, said: "This has nothing to do with the Tory party. But it shows the depth of concern felt by some people towards this Government's assault on the constitution and Parliament." Lord Weatherill, former

Commons Speaker and convenor of the crossbenches. said he had investigated rumours that a crossbench peer had been responsible. But all the peers he had spoken to had denied sending the poster.
One peer said: "I think someone was rifling through their drawer and came across some

propaganda from the 1911 campaign against reform. He probably just touched it up and gave it a second outing." A Labour spokesman in the Lords said: "This is another example of a section of hereditary peers who are totally out

of touch with the real world."



Buddy politics: Tony Blair and Gordon Brown taking to the airwaves for a phone-in on Talk Radio yesterday

Now for something completely different

TONY BLAIR and Gordon Brown launched a new form of "buddy politics" with a ioint appearance to defend the Budget on a radio pro-gramme. The Prime Minister and his Chancelior had been invited onto Talk Radio to discuss income tax relief and fuel

By MARK INGLEFIELD, POLITICAL REPORTER

levies, but they could not resist projecting themselves as a pair of back-slapping, regular guys. Dropping his prudent facade. Mr Brown talked about his boss's love of rock and roll. "You can come back

and hear the music playing in Downing Street in the afternoon ... and that's before the kids get home," he quipped. This was the first time that any Chancellor or Prime Min-

ister had appeared on a radio programme together, and was seen as part of Mr Blair's drive to stop the media trivialising politics. It certainly left listeners in no doubt that Mr Brown and Mr Blair were bosom pals. When asked about their friendship, the Prime Minister said it was "the best relationship I know in British politics" - something that might come as a surprise to Westiminster's married couples, among them Peter and

there was a rift between them. This is a relationship forged in very difficult times, and in Government it will hold."

Bonr inte

But this badinage was rudely interrupted by the callers, who were almost entirely critical of the Budget. Dave from Birmingham claimed that it had left him feeling as it "Dick Turpin had just ridden

through his living room". When another caller complained about fuel duties, the Chancellor told him: "Why don't you write to me and 111

get this sorted out." Only at the end did Mr Brown's chumminess waver. Emulating The Two Ronnies, Mr Blair signed off with "It's goodbye from me". Mr Brown hesitated. "Er. and I suppose I should say it's good-

THE OLD ONES ARE THE BEST

On "Iving above the shop", Mr Blair conceded; "It is a strange situation to be in, in the flat closes your are with David Blunkett (Education Secretary) comes round with

Chancellor have used both jokes before, in an April 1997 election broadcast Mr Blair a way, but once the door of promised his children they would have "lots of homework when David Blunkett gets hold of you". On May 11, 1997, Mr Brown told friends he intended sending the Home Secretary to "come around and impose a round with the curiew." curiew" on the Blair children
The Prime Minister and if they made too rouch noise curiew" on the Blair children

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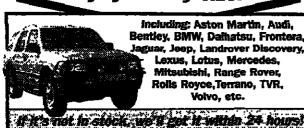
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Benn's new Bill finds friends left and right

most infuriating as well as one of the most original politicians of the postwar era. He has been wrong on many central issues of the past generation and, 20 years ago, largely created the myth that Labour members had been betrayed by their leaders which came within a whisker of tearing the party apart. But he has also been the sin-

gle greatest influence on constitutional reform up to the election of the Blair Gov-Benn is responsible not merely for allowing peers to ON PO disclaim their ti-

tles but also for the now regular use of referendums. He has also been persistent and clear-sighted in warning about the growth of executive power and defending the rights of the Commons, not least by making speeches as opposed to soundbites. It has often been easy for ministers and media to dismiss his initiatives merely because they come from him as just one of Tony's eccentricities". Yet, this month, he has pro-

duced a Bill which has gained the support not just of the La-bour Left but also of four Tory MPs. This includes not only Richard Shepherd, the Tories' constitutional conscience, but also David Davis, whom no one has ever called a Bennite. and two other select committee chairmen. The proposal is the grandly

titled Crown Prerogatives (Parliamentary Control) Bill but in practice it is mainly about the executive preroga-tives exercised by the Prime Minister and other ministers rather than the limited remaining personal prerogatives of the Crown. These executive prerogatives, still mis-

public bodies, establishing Royal Commissions, the issue of many orders in council; and executive powers not conferred by statute. These powers can, at present, be exercised without the approval of Parliament. But Mr Benn proposes that they should require the assent of the Commons. This not just a theoretical

matter. Several MPs of all parties have recently complained that the Govern sought recent approval by the Com-

mons for military action over Iraq. Moreover, months ago. the Treasury committee pressed, unsuccessfully, for members of the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of England to be confirmed by the Commons. Mr Benn presented the measure as an attempt to redress the balance between the executive and the legislature. As he concedes, the Bill is unpopular with those who exer-

¬ he Bili also proposes that the appointment of Prime Ministers (technically inviting someone to form an administration) and the dissolution of Parliament before the expiry of the five-year maximum should require the assent of the Commons. This affects the personal prerogatives of the Crown, but that is no reason why they should not be debated and considered, though possibly separately from the strictly executive prerogatives.

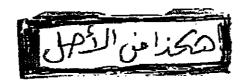
cise patronage since they would have to be more ac-

countable for their decisions.

Mr Benn's Bill stands no chance of becoming law. But he and his supporters have raised an issue which goes to the heart of complaints of

ment. It is now up to MPs commitment of British troops; themselves to take forward the debate. Perhaps the Public signing or ratifying treaties. Administration Select Comrecognising foreign governments: assenting to European mittee should hold an inquiry. legislation; appointing bish-ops, judges, peers, ministers, to complement its current examination of the accountabilia

leadingly exercised in the name of the Crown, include declarations of war and the high-handedness by Govern-





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OSK/R LAFONTAINE, the Germn Finance Minister once abbed the "most dangerous can in Europe", yesterday let his long-running pow-er striggle with the Chancellor. Grhard Schröder, and re-

tainwas greeted with scarcely con-

ceald giee by the British Govern-

Hrt Lafontaine — a strong sup-porte of greater European integra-

tion - had become a serious prob-

lem π Tony Blair's pro-European

Government. He was an uncom-

fortale reminder to the Prime

Minster of the spectre of Old La-

bourwhich he had to banish to win its landslide election victory.

Andhe troublesome Finance Min-

menlast night

signe from all his offices. The Social Democrat-led Government has been thrown into lavoc and so too has the European Union. Germany holds he presidency of the EU and he key figure in prepar-ing is financial reforms is

Hisplans for a more tightly integrated Europe and for compreheisive tax harmonisation an nitiative which irritated Britain - will not be abandoner, but they will be presented in a less forthright style. Confised Germans were yesterdal telephoning each other in search of an explanation, but the deepest shock was probably felt in Paris. Thiplump 55-year-old Saar-lande, a fluent French-speak-

er. has kept the Franco-German alliance alive during a cismal and tense period. The nuch-vaunted Franco-Gernan dialogue has amounted over the past few months to an elergetic conversation betyeen Herr Lafontaine and Eminique Strauss-Kahn, the

Speedy downfall of 'Red Oskar' is greeted with glee in London German minister was awkward reminder of Old Labour, Philip Webster writes

> hard Schröder, the German Chancellor, following the path of eco-nomic reform that Mr Blair has been urging on him and the rest of

Herr Schröder's instincts are in the right place, according to British ministers, but the Third Way was not for "Red Oskar" and had

result. His federalist ambitions were also an embarrassment to London as it tries to win public opinion over to the euro. The swift rise in the fledgling currency at news of his departure was being noted in London.

He infuriated the Government with his demands last year for Eu-

Downing Street to fight off a rash of damaging press reports that Brit-ain would be forced to put up taxes to continental levels.

Officially the line from Downing Street was that his departure was a matter for the German Government. Privately, however, senior diplomats are convinced that Herr Schröder deliberately gave Herr Lafontaine enough rope with which to hang himself.

One said: "We have seen this coming. Schröder is a lot shrewder than people give him credit for. In the end German business was giv-ing him the thumbs down and that was enough for Schröder."

Diplomats say that Germany's six-month presidency of the EU has been affected by the turmoil in its Government. There was criticism of the haphazard organisation of last month's special summit in Bonn and there was a big question mark last night over the implications for the crunch twoday meeting of EU leaders on the budget in Berlin at the end of this

John Major, the former Prime Minister, said last night: "Lafontaine has been the grit in the German oyster. It seems clear that there has been a serious policy division between him and the German

"I hope his resignation will mean a clear and coherent German economic policy from now on, since this is important not only for Germany, but across Europe." Tony Benn, the veteran Labour MP and former Cabinet Minister,

said: "This is a victory for the defla-

forces in the German Government. "He is no more dangerous than Keynes. It is because he is so far to the left of every political party in Britain at the moment that he is being presented as a villain."

Gerald Howarth, a Tory MP and prominent Eurosceptic. said: "He has done more than any other elected politician to spell out in words of one syllable what the objectives are of so many continental politicians: namely, the creation of a United States of Europe."

Bonn is plunged into chaos as Lafontaine goes

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONK

The Sun front page which

Herr. afontaine.

French Finance Minister. was the Government's ideolog-Now nobody is talking. ical backbone, the only minis-ter who stood for anything. Herr Lafontaine's resigna Herr Schröder's Government. tion from the Finance Minisbarely six months after the detry and from the chairmanship of the Social Democratic feat of Helmut Kohl, has never Party removes a thorn from the side of the Chancellor. But looked so close to collapse: there can be no more damning it also leaves a dangerous void statement than the resignation in the Social Democrat-Green of a Finance Minister. coalition - Herr Lafontaine

It followed a stormy Cabinet meeting on Wednesday. Herr Schröder barked at his ministers and threatened them indirectly with his own resignation. If the Red-Green Govern-ment continued to agitate against the interests of business, scaring away invest-ment, he said, "then the point will come when I can no longer take responsibility for such The words were directed at

the Environment Minister, Jürgen Trittin, and at Herr Lafontaine, whose garbled corporate tax reforms have led to protests from the boardrooms of utilities and insurance companies. Herr Lafontaine backed the Chancellor at a Cabinet meeting as if he were not one of the targets. But late on Wednesday, af-

ter a long conversation with his wife, Christa Müller, he decided to step down. There was no way in a Schröder Govern-



Oskar Lafontaine with his wife. Christa Müller, whom he consulted before quitting. Their dreams of a left-leaning republic have been dashed

ment that he would be able to realise his dream of a redistributive, demand-led. modern. social democratic economy. As a Finance Minister, he was under fire from all sides.

From the European Central Bank, for urging lower interest rates. From ordinary Germans, who saw no merit in his income-tax reforms. From business bosses, furious at plans to tax reserves or raise corporate taxation. And from the Social Democratic Party itself, which was complaining

about his lack of leadership. Advisers were urging him to give up the party chairmanship since its role in day-to-day government was beginning to shrivel. Yet this would have weakened him fatally, making him only one minister among many. He had either to resign both positions or stay in place.

Despite his apparent failures, Herr Lafontaine had time on his side. But both the Chancellor and Herr Lafontaine are vain men. The erstwhile Finance Minister is easi-

ly wounded by criticism. Even the Sun attack - the "most dangerous man in Europe" left him hurt and dismayed until M Strauss-Kahn urged him to make a joke out of it.

His options now are unclear. For a few days rumours have been circulating that he will be Germany's candidate for the EU presidency. But it seems improbable that all European leaders would support him in an attempt to succeed Jacques Santer. The lack of prospects leaves him restless.

outside government — a loose written with his wife, is a percannon that could prove lethal sonal manifesto. Called Don't for the Chancellor. Herr Schröder's strategy

since winning the general election last September has been to allow Herr Lafontaine to over-extend himself. Gradually the minister has had to retreat from his cherished positions - his wish for target exchange rate zones, for wideranging controls of internahim in check. tional capital markets, for a

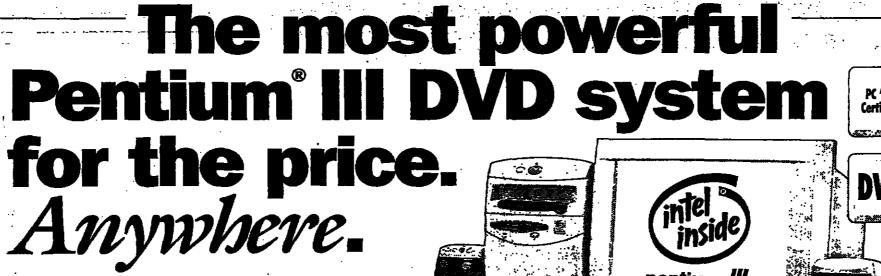
ban on overtime. This retreat

could be measured. His book.

Be Afraid of Globalisation. they set out their plan for a left-leaning German republic. It has already become plain to Herr Latontaine that none of these ideas will be realised. He once had high hopes of

becoming the first Social Democratic leader since Helmut Schmidt. But the personal popularity of Herr Schröder kept

Leading article, page 23



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Computer Active January 1999

'rescues'

House

of Savoy

antiques

FROM RICHARD OVEN

GIANNI AGNELLI the

78-year-old patriarch (Fiat

whose power and intuence

have earned him the tile "the

uncrowned king of Ital", yes-

terday emerged as a tystery buyer who bid at Southby's in

London this week for lith-cen-

tury antiques which oce be-

longed to Italy's royalfamily,

In an unusual move Sothe-

by's agreed on Wedneslay to a

request from the Italia police

to freeze the sale of 24ots for

35 days to allow investgators

to establish whether the export

licences were in order.
Italian MPs and poice yes-

terday continued to clim that

the royal furniture was of na-tional importance. ad that the export licences - which they do not deny are alid --

had been obtained by resent-

ing the items in five different

provincial fine arts offices of

the House of Savoy.

Schindler of the art world back in the picture

THE memoirs of Varian Fry, a long-forgotten American wartime hero who rescued some of the greatest cultural figures of the 20th century from the clutches of the Gestapo, were finally published in France yesterday, more than 30 years after he died alone and in obscurity, largely ignored by those he risked his life to save.

Fry, dubbed "the artists" Schindler, was a Harvardeducated young journalist when he left New York for France in 1940 to help European artists and intellectuals to escape Nazi persecution.

Among those he helped to save were Marc Chagall, Max Ernst, Hannah Arendt, Marcel Duchamp and André Breton. In all, Fry rescued more than 4,000 people, including British soldiers trapped in



Marc Chagail and Hannah Arendt: Fry helped both

Susan Bell

writes in Paris of new fame for an American who saved 4,000

Even before arriving in France, Fry had had firsthand experience of the horrors of Nazism. As a foreign correspondent for an American journal, The Living Age, he had witnessed the first Nazi pogrom against the Jews on a trip to Berlin in 1935.

On his return to the United States he became involved with the American Emergency Rescue Committee and jumped at the chance to return to

thousands of people out by boat or across the Spanish border on foot. He lobbied the US Administration, sympathetic consuls and friends in high places, denounced the internment camps and laundered dollars for his cause. Among his most devoted associates was Mary Jayne Gold, a beautiful Chicago-

Europe. Armed with a letter of introduction from Eleanor

Roosevelt, a list of 200 endan-

gered intellectuals and \$3,000

strapped to his leg. Fry headed

for Marseilles, the last big

French port not under Ger-

man control, and set up his

headquarters in a third-floor

The Marseilles Fry de-

scribes in his memoir. The

Black List, was crammed with

refugees who feared that they

would be turned over to the

Nazis under the "surrender on

demand" clause in the Franco-

German armistice. Soon the

hotel was crowded with desper-

ate refugees who saw the American as their last hope of

obtaining exit papers. Fry quickly became skilled

at arranging emergency visas, false passports and forged

identity cards and smuggled

room of the Hotel Splendide.

born heiress who came to Paris in the Thirties "to have a good time". When the Nazis marched down the Champs Elysées in 1940. Gold moved to Marseilles, where she met Fry. She provided much needed financial help and was not averse to using her looks to persuade officials to turn a blind eye to the rescue work.

Varian Fry in his office in spring, 1941. He died in 1967, almost wholly forgotten, even by those he rescued

Fry was sent to France on a three-week assignment to help 200 refugees to escape, but he held on for 13 months. He might have saved many more than 4,000 if the US State Department, anxious to maintain good relations with Vichy, had not betrayed him, plotting

have him expelled for "protecting Jews and anti-Nazis".

Saddened and embittered, Fry returned to America, where he taught Latin until his death in 1967. He remained obsessed by the Holocaust: "I would like to forget that look (of a woman refu-

for five minutes. I deserve that small respite. But I cannot." His memoirs were pub-

lished in America in 1945, but quickly went out of print and his courage was forgotten. although France did honour him shortly before he died with the Légion d'honneur.

cation of his moving memoir. this situation looks set to change. Last year Fry became the first American to be made one of the Righteous Among the Nations by the Israeli Yac Vashem Holocaust Memorial Museum. And in Marseilles an exhibition dedicated to him

the Ministry of Cultur. "If the items has been viewed in their entirely, Italian officials would hive assessed them as a clection and blocked their expot. "said General Roberto (pnforti, head of the carabinier section

dealing with fine arts offences. La Stampa, the Turn newspaper, said that a number of wealthy Iralians had jown to London to attend the sale, which raised more that £8 million, in response to acall by Signor Agnelli for a "atriotic rescue operation".

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It emerged that before the sale Signor Agnelli bought four wall-mounted gilded candelabra decorated with Meissen porcelain - whichonce belonged to King Umberto II. the last Italian monarch with the aim of donating them to Turin. The city is the seal of the former royal family and the headquarters of Flat and

the Agnelli empire. The collection was put together by Giuseppe Rosi, who was close to ex-King imberto, who went into exil in Portugal in 1946. After Signor Rossi's death it passed tohis sister, now 80, who plan to fund various charities, incuding one for young jobless.

Checkmate for German chess king as 'Fritz' leaves cheat exposed

with the French authorities to

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

THE German chess world is in uproar over a 55-year-old minor league club player whose stunning victories against Russian grandmasters were allegedly the result of an electronic fraud rather than mas-

Clemens Allwermann is a retired hi-fi salesman who until recently was content to play at his local club-

house in southern Germany. Suddenly, at a chess tournament in Böblingen, he won mate in eight moves against the Russian grandmaster Sergei Kalinichev, one of the world's top players, and stormed on to win first prize.

Again and again, the crucial game was replayed by German chess enthusiasts to analyse Herr Allwermann's lucid play. Then somebody noticed the similarity between the moves, and those proposed by the computer chess programme "Fritz 5.32". The game, so to speak, was up. Herr Allwermann, it appears.

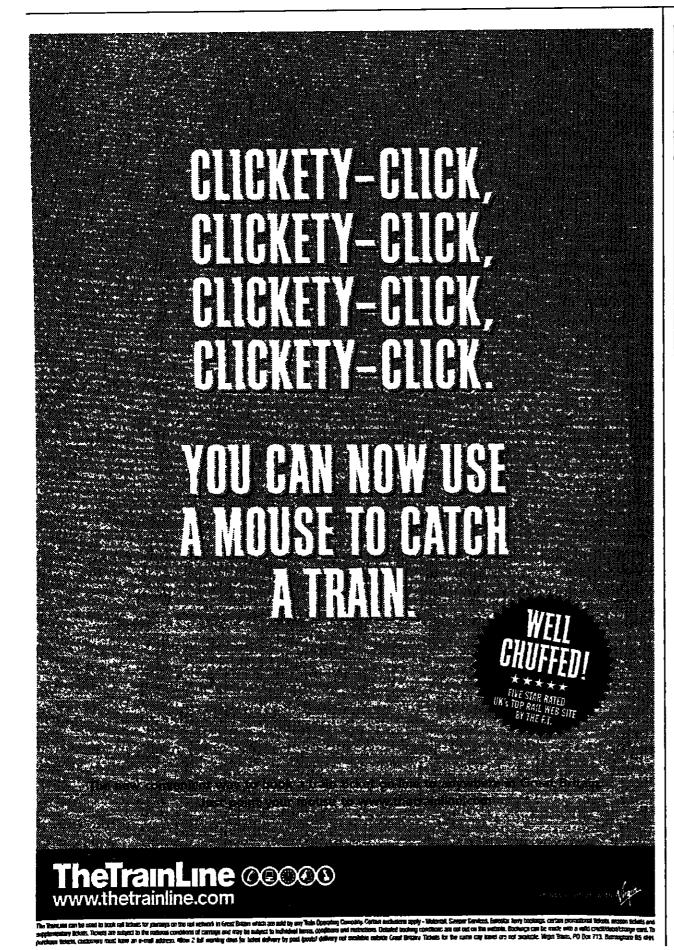
used a messager hidden on his lap. The grandmaster would make his move and Herr Allwermann, reaching down apparently to adjust his trousers, would punch it into the device. At the other end of the transmitter was an accomplice in a room in the hotel where the tournament was being staged. The friend typed the moves into Fritz 5.32 and waited for the computer's advice. The counter-moves were then relayed into a miniature ear receiver concealed by Herr Allwermann's long hair.

After his surprising victories he has been so closely watched by spectators that he has lost every game. Electronics shops have confirmed that they sold the apparatus to Herr Allwermann and the German chess and sports authorities are calling for blood. Egon Ditt, president of

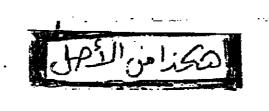
the German Chess Federation, wants Herr Allwermann to be banned for several years. This is not just a prank. We have to send a signal to the world that chess tournaments are not going to be distorted in the same way that chemical doping has distorted athletics. This is electronic doping and has to be punished accordingly."

At top levels there have been frequent allegations of cheating. In the heyday of Viktor Korchnoi, Boris Spassky and Bobby Fischer - whose international clashes became part of the great Cold War game - allegations flowed about the use of hypnotists, telepathy and even coded yoghurt pots. But it was only a matter of time before cheating at chess became high-tech.

The big question now is how fu-ture fraud can be prevented. Some suggest body searches along the lines of airport security before entering the tournament room.







hment Zimbabwe jails white doctor over child deaths

AN ANAESTHETIST, who has been pilloried by black radicals here as a latter-day version of Josef Mengele, the Auschwitz SS doctor, experimenting on black patients, had his conviction for causing the deaths of two children by negligence confirmed by the Supreme Court yesterday.

Dr Richard McGown, 62, is due to begin serving a sixmonth jail sentence in Harare central prison tomorrow for the death of a 20-month-old boy in 1988. He also has to pay a £160 fine for the 1990 death

of a 10-year-old Kenyan girl. Mark Stonier, his lawyer, yesterday told prison authoriies that he was concerned for Dr McGown's safety in prison. When he was jailed briefly in 1995, he was kept apart from other prisoners.

Dr McGown was "surprisingly together" after the court ruling. Mr Stonier said.

Born in India of Scottish parents. Dr McGown was regarded by colleagues as a skilled anaesthetist and a pioneer in the technique of injecting morphine into the spine, seen as a major advance in reducing

ol has 3 3008 10世



experiments on blacks

Kalpesh Nagindas, the boy toddler, had been given a heavy dosage of morphine for a routine circumcision. Dr McGown handed him over to his parents 28 minutes after the operation instead of keeping him in hospital for a period of observation.

Lavender Kaminwa died of respiratory depression that followed a high morphine dosage for an appendectomy. Dr McGown "saw fit to send Lavender to a general ward where only one nurse was on duty. managing ten patients in five different rooms".

The Supreme Court deci-sion closes what is probably the most extraordinary legal proceedings in the country's history, underlining the deep divisions between blacks and whites in Zimbabwe.

A parliamentary report in 1993 stirred up a frenzy of race hatred when it denounced Dr McGown for alleged racist experiments on black women and suggested that he injected black patients with the Aids

The report was discredited. but it did not stop public dem-onstrations by black militants who threatened to "amputate whites if Dr McGown was not given a severe prison sen-

The controversy continued to the end. Two weeks ago the Supreme Court admitted that a draft of the judgment had been stolen from the desk of the appeal judge, Ahmed Ebrahim, and given to journalists

Last Friday the band of the prison services led a march by K radicals calling for Di McGown to be hanged and for the sacking of the Chief Justice, Anthony Gubbay. Justice Ministry officials said later the band had been "duped" into leading the demonstration.

Economic woes drive families to suicide in Japan

ultiple suicides, in which children are forced to die with their parents, are rising sharply as Japan's economic crisis grows worse, a study showed

yesterday.
Last year 72 children were the victims of family spicides, according to the Child Abuse Prevention Network, a private group based in Aichi, central Japan. This marked a sharp increase over the 46 such deaths in 1997, and 38 the

previous year. Thirty mothers and 20 fathers were involved in last year's spate of ikka shinju family suicides where parents decide it is more humane to take their children with them in death rather than leave

them with a stigma of failure. But if the motive is "honour-able", the reality is often grisly. Last September, three chil-dren and their mother were burnt to death when the father set fire to the family home. The man, who was rescued against his will, told police he planned to die with his family so they could escape together from his

mounting debts. In another case last October, a woman who could not repay a finance company's consumer loan died with her two childen when she drove her car over a 230ft cliff.

The incidents have become so commonplace that, if reported by the press at all, they command only a few lines on the inside pages. Researchers ound that "the increase in amily suicides appears to reion and the debt trap people ind themselves in as a result".

A prolonged slump has drivn thousands of companies to he wall and pushed unemdoyment to a postwar record igh. Though Japan has the orld's second largest econo-79. it lacks the social safety et common in Western counies. "People around 50 have to die.

More children killed by parents, writes Robert

Whymant in Tokyo

given their whole lives to a company and find themselves being edged out as the reces sion gets worse," Ryu Otomo, a writer, said, "There is a spreading mood of fear."

In a trend that is alarming railway operators, many peo-ple are choosing to kill themselves by leaping in front of trains. On Monday, train services in the Tokyo area were thrown into chaos when four men in their fifties chose this

method of ending it all.

It was the highest one-day toll in the capital since Novemaged men threw themselves in front of trains on a national holiday."The situation is becoming very serious," said a spokesman for East Japan Railways Company, which operates some of the busiest lines in the Tokyo area. "There are no effective measures we can take to prevent these suicides."

he company says there were 78 suicides on its Tokyo region lines in the nine months from March to December last year, compared to 77 in the previous 12 months. A surge in recent weeks is likely to lift the total for fiscal 1998, which ends on March 31, closer to 90.

Japanese commuters spend countless hours of their lives on packed trains, umbilical cords between their homes and workplaces. For that reason, Mr Otomo believes, they may see the railway lines as a "familiar and homely place"



President Khatami of Iran is welcomed at the Vatican yesterday by the Pope at the end of his historic three-day visit to Italy. The trip has symbolised his country's attempt to break out of its pariah" status 20 years after

he Islamic revolution which

Italy hails Iran reformer

chard Owen writes). The President also had talks with Massimo D'Alema, the Italian Prime Minister, who praised "the new openness

with which Iran is looking a Europe".The visit — to be fol-lowed next month by talks in Paris - was dogged by demonstrations by Iranian dissidents and a controversy over

the simultaneous presence on Italian soil of Salman Rushdie, author of The Satanic Verses. Mr Rushdie said that, if Iran wanted to normalise its relations with the world", the best way would be to put a stop to death threats

British outrage as more 'spies' are expelled by Congo

By Sam Kiley, Africa Correspondent

FOUR more British soldiers both countries in backing and Foreign Office officials as well as a US State Department employee were yesterday expelled from the Democratic Republic of Congo after being accused of spying and illegably entering an army base carrying "sophisticated photographequipment".

The move yesierday, a day after a British diplomat was expelled on the same charges. immediately sparked outrage at the Foreign Office, which repeated its denial that the men were involved in spying.

These people were not spies. Their purpose there was wholly innocent. We would have been guilty of irresponsibility if these plans for a possible evacuation in the event the Congo's war spread to the capital were not put forward." Tony Lloyd, the minister re-

sponsible for Africa, said. The expulsions came as Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, and his French counterpart, Hubert Vedrine, started a joint tour of Africa in Ghana. There have been deep suspicions of the motivations of

different sides in the Great Lakes catastrophe which has led to the collapse of the former Zaire into civil war.

The arrests and expulsions of alleged British spies will play into the hands of both French and British officials who suspect one another of

But yesterday the two senior foreign officials vowed to bury the rivalries of the past when they went on to visit Ivory

"Britain and France have not always been the closest of partners in Africa," Mr Cook told a meeting by a lagoon in the former French colony's main city. Abidjan. "We need to be transparent with our friends in Africa."

M Vedrine, like Mr Cook highlighted the history. That this event takes place in Africa is symbolic," he said, adding that concepts of carving up the world and of zones of special influence had lingered longer in Africa than elsewhere.

"All that is now well and truly finished," he said.



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US 'sorry for death squads' President apologises to Guatemala over American backing for murderous juntas, Ian Brodie reports apologised for a dark and long-buried episode of America's foreign policy: its support for brutal right-wing govern-

ments in Guatemala during a 36-year civil war in which 200,000 people died. Making an admission that many Guatemalans never thought they would hear. Mr Clinton declared: "For the United States, it is important I

left-wing guerrillas. "The army can be expected to give no quarter to combatants and non-combatants alike," the cable said. Another document told how, in the 1980s, Guatemalan military intelligence agents dumped suspected guerrillas, dead or alive, out of aircraft into the sea. "In this way, they have been able to remove the majority of the evidence showing that prisoners were tortured and killed."

In a 1966 memo, a State Department security official said

military forces and intelli-

gence units which engaged in violence and widespread

repression was wrong and the

United States must not repeat

No President before has so

directly admitted the US role

in the atrocities. In Washing-

ton, newly declassified intelli-

gence documents added vivid

details of the massacres, kid-

nappings, torture and other

horrors committed by Guate-

malan security forces who

were trained and equipped by the CIA and US Army.

A 1962 CIA cable described

entire villages being burnt to the ground because the Guate-

malan Army believed the May-an Indian peasants supported

that mistake."

house" inside the Guatemalan presidential palace where local security agents could meet their US contacts. The premises became headquarters for officers waging Guatemala's "dirty war".

Mr Clinton spoke to a crosssection of citizens at a "peace round table " in Guatemala City. One woman, Femina Lopez, told him how her husband was kidnapped 17 years ago and to this day she does state clearly that support for not know if he is alive or dead. "I am just one example of the thousands of women and chil-

> ⁶ Support for forces engaged in repression was wrong 7

dren who became victims of the war," she said.

Along with his message of contrition. Mr Clinton promised Washington's support for harmony and reconciliation in Guatemala where the war ended in 1996 with United Nations help. He explained how US backing for right-wing governments and covert support for actions against left-wing insurgents throughout Central America — in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua - had created "bit-

http://www.lanez.com.et/enac4.htm

ter divisions" within the Unit-ed States. All the countries are now under democratic rule. For many years US administrations, Democratic and Republican, intervened at will in the region, a habit reinforced during the Cold War by the

threat of communism. In Guatemala in 1954, during the Eisenhower Administration, CIA support enabled a military junta to overthrow the left-wing regime.

From then on, the Americans sided with a military that became synonymous with repression and abuse. Last month a report from the Historical Clarification Commission, which grew out of the UN's role, found that the CIA and US Army advisers were pivotal to the state-sponsored acts of genocide committed by the Guatemalan Army, mainly against the Mayans.

The report blamed the army for 93 per cent of all mass-acres, tortures, disappear-ances and killings during the war. Left-wing guerrillas were responsible for only 3 per cent of atrocities, the report said. During an arrival ceremony

at the palace, Mr Clinton praised Guatemala's efforts to move towards democracy and reconciliation and reaffirmed America's commitment to shed light on the dark events of the past so that they are never repeated.

His words were welcomed by government and opposition politicians, but they were not enough for some. Facing a line of riot police and troops with assault rifles outside the palace, several hundred students. trade unionists and other demonstrators burnt US flags and chanted: "Yankee, go home."



A protester holds the picture of a "disappeared" woman in Guatemala City yesterday

Reagan launched crusade to drive out communists

HEN President Reagan took office in January 1980, critics say US policy in Central America went haywire. Reversing several years of promoting peaceful reform, Ronald Reagan's Administration launched an ideologically driven crusade of anticommunist conflict that cost hundreds of thousands of lives and left

the region economically devastated. For most of this century the United States has aggressively protected its interests in Central America, viewed in Washington as its own backyard. In a region where democracy had not taken root, that usually meant But US policy shifted dramatically

Washington gave dictators arms to block

'domino effect', writes David Adams

with the fall of Anastasio Somoza. the Nicaraguan dictator. The ousting of Somoza by the Sandinista revolutionary army rocked the region and plunged Central America into the Cold War. Fears of a communist takeover prompted Mr Reagan to order the swift increase of military aid to the region, to counter Cuban and Soviet influence.

But defending the region from the so-called "domino effect" of communist expansion meant arming rightwing military regimes in Guatema-

la, Honduras and El Salvador. Tragically, Washington failed to foresee — or was willing to turn a blind eye to - the horror that would ensue.

Over the next decade the US pumped an estimated \$8 billion (£5 billion) to \$10 billion into the region. much of it spent on military equipment and training. In El Salvador alone, the US spent \$1 million a day for most of the decade.

US aid only strengthened the hand of right-wing military leaders in the region, who engaged in a violent campaign to wipe out left-wing activists. The worst atrocities were in El Salvador and Guatemala where an estimated 300,000 people were killed and millions uprooted.

Meanwhile, the US was secretly

arming and training the Contras, a Nicaraguan resistance army fight-ing to overthrow the Sandinistas.

llegations that US officials A covered up human rights abuses by their allies in the region have gained credence over the years as damaging documents have been unclassified. In some cases evidence has emerged of involvement by US troops, and more particularly the CIA, in abuses.

Political decisions were made in Washington to hide the truth from an American public with little stomach for war after Vietnam. In Honduras, for example, US officials husbed up information about the murder of left-wing activists by the military. A recent article by the former US Ambassador to Honduras, Jack Binns, describes how he was instructed to discontinue reporting human rights violations in official channels".

Whitewater

1.45

10%

Mr Birms and other academic experts now maintain that the Central American wars were not simply bru-tal, they were unnecessary. He be-lieves diplomacy, not US support for armed conflict, could have brought peace more quickly to the region.



Anger at Kussian censorship move

Moscow: A censorship Bill aimed at stemming the tide of violence and pornography that has saturated Russian television channels in recent years is itself causing outrage (Anna Blundy writes). The Russian press has reacted furiously to the proposed censorship by the Communist-dominated lower house, the State Duma. Komsomolskaya Pravda's front page yesterday was devoted to a raunchily illustrated accusation that Communists are out to deprive the viewing public of Western erotica. President Yelsin has promised to veto the Bill when it comes to him for signature. The Bill comes at a time when the stability of the Government depends on Communist support and the Communist Party is eager to flaunt its increasing influence.

Three die in avalanche

Rome: A German mother, 58, her daughter, 28, and a German man, 61, were killed in Italy's Alto Adige region when they were engulied by an avalanche that they set off themselves after venturing off piste (John Phillips writes). Police said their bodies were pushed some 9,000ft down the mountain by the wall of snow. The accident underlined official warnings that warmer temperatures after heavy snowfalls are making snow conditions treacherously unstable again in the Alps and Apennines.

Italy reviews bases

Rome: America and Italy are to set up a joint commission to review the rules governing US bases on Italian soil, following the tragedy a year ago in northern Italy when a low-flying jet on a Nato training flight from Aviano severed a cable-car wire, sending 20 people plunging to their deaths (Richard Owen writes). The move follows a wave of anger in Italy over last week's acquittal by a US military court of the pilot.

Israel convicts ex-spy

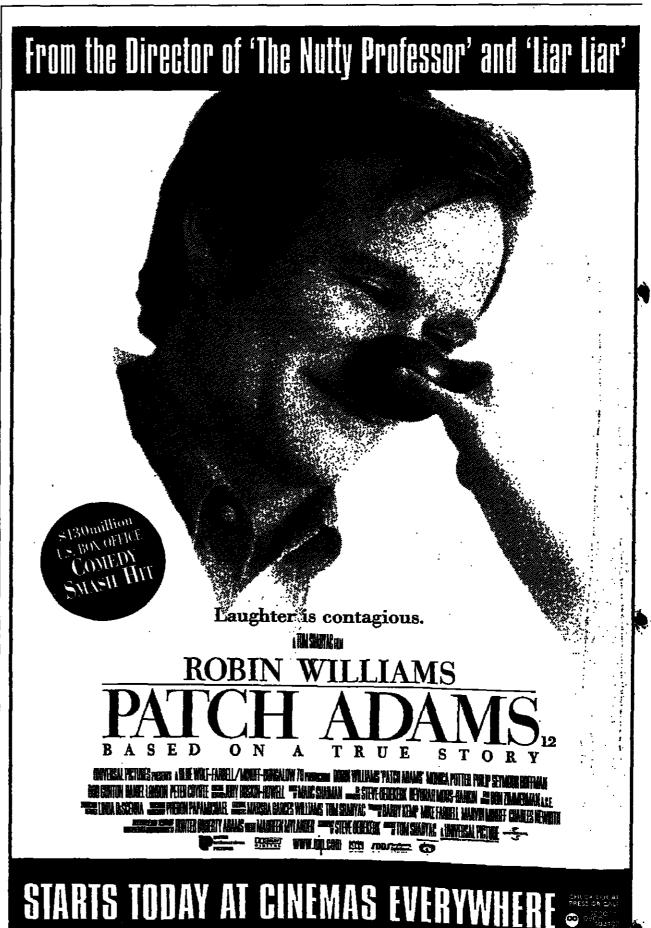
Tel Aviv: A court convicted yesterday a retired Mossad agent of fabricating intelligence that reportedly could have led to war with Syria almost two years ago. Details were not disclosed by the court but according to Israeli reports Yehuda Gil. 64, told his superiors that President Assad of Syria was planning a military strike to seize part of the Golan Heights captured by Israel in 1967. Gil. to be sentenced later, faces up to 15 years in jail. (AP)

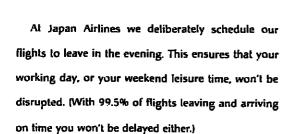
Hong Kong critics fail

Hong Kong: A no-confidence motion against Elsie Lung. Justice Secretary, over her handling of issues linked to China, was rejected by the territory's legislature sparking new criticism from pro-democracy lawmakers. The challenge followed a decision last year not to prosecute Sally Aw. a pro-China publishing tycoon, in an alleged circulation fraud involving The Hong Kong Standard newspaper. (Reuters)

Church gunmen kills 4

Gonzales, Louisiana: A gunman burst into a church service and opened fire as he walked down the aisle, killing his wife, child and a member of the congregation and injuring four others, two critically. Shon Miller also fatally shot his mother-in-law at home before going to the New St John Fellowship Baptist Church, police chief Bill Landry said. The gunman fled but was wounded and caught in a shoot-out with police. (AP)



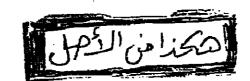


It also means that when you arrive in Japan it will be late afternoon, allowing you time to relax overnight. So when you arrive for your meeting you'll be as prepared and composed as possible. Being on time, however, is down to you.

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Paradise lost for shop-worn Valley Girls of LA

IN LOS ANGELES

THEY, like, hung out They talked in a strange and almost verbless vernacular. But most of all they shopped, turning conspicuous con-sumption into both an art form and their version of rebellion. They were

the Valley Girls, and now they have

nowhere to go (like, totally).
With the closure this month of a giant shopping mall at the junction of two freeways in the San Fernando Valley, the curtain will fall on a none-too-glorious era in the social

said: "The First Couple had a shouting match, which left

Hillary Clinton storming out

of the room saying she wanted

The holiday came only days

after a television interview

with Juanita Broaddrick, an

Arkansas woman who claimed tearfully that she was raped by Mr Clinton when he

was attorney-general of the

state 20 years ago. Ms Cosby added: "A Clin-

ton family friend [says] that

the First Couple barely speak

in private, that they have noth-

ing to talk about any more.

The only thing they have in common is Chelsea'."

history of Los Angeles: one that cele-brated shoes, malls, make-up and dating to the exclusion of the wider world and, some say, reached its apotheosis in Monica Lewinsky.

Ground zero for the Valley Girls was the 900,000 sq ft Sherman Oaks Galleria, a monstrous mall made famous by Frank Zappa and his daughter. Moon Unit. As their 1982 hit single. Valley Girls. proclaimed: "Like, ohmigod! Like totally! Girls like the Galleria. And, like, all these, like, really great shoe stores."

In the same year, Amy Heckerling directed what became the seminal

cinematic study of Valley Girls, Fast Times at Ridgemont High. Shot largely in the Galleria, it featured a young Sean Penn as an urhan surfdude bringing his vacuous beach drawl and surging libido into the mall-bound lives of two quintessential teenage airheads played by Jen-

nifer Jason Leigh and Phoebe Cates. Now the Galleria is all but dead. Closed for repairs by the 1994 Northridge earthquake, it never truly recovered. Those shops still open around its cavernous four-level atrium are holding frantic liquidation sales and developers are planning to office complex. An eyesore by any standards, the Galleria has few mourners.

The typical former Valley Girl is loath to own up to her misspent teen years in its bowels, when she and her parents' credit cards were symbols of the fragility of Reaganomics. As Kevin Starr, a prominent local historian, put it: "Right now, the Valley Girl is 35 and about to be a partner in a downtown law firm.

Promoters of Los Angeles have moved on to the gleaming new Getty Centre, a crucible of high culsame freeway but facing south towards the Pacific and the booming west side. The Galleria, by contrast. stands in near-permanent smog in a neighbourhood best known for

churning out soft-core pomography. Pop culture has moved on, too. First, Aaron Spelling trained teenagers' gaze on Beverly Hills 90210, the most self-consciously sophisticated zipcode in the metropolis. Then Ms Lewinsky showed the world that as an alumnus of Beverly Hills High School she was not an airhead after all. At least, she tried to.

Clinton marriage 'under new strain'

refusing to leave the headlines and accusations about past infidelities continuing to sur-face, President Clinton's marriage was reported yesterday to be under renewed strain.

Mrs Clinton was quoted as saying: "I don't want to be in the same room as him, let alone the same bed." This was said to be the real reason why she had not joined her husband on his tour of Central America - not a bad back, as her office had explained.

Fox News, the American cable news channel, said its source was close to the Clintons and added that the chilly relations had also been the reason why the couple cut short a skiing trip to Utah earlier this

The couple stayed at the home of the film mogul Jerry Katzenberg with their daugh-

Damian Whitworth in Washington hears reports of shouting matches and humiliation for Hillary

her bags.

ter Chelsea, to celebrate her 19th birthday. But when she returned to Stanford University they decided to fly back to Washington rather than stay a planned extra day, moving so swiftly that a plane was not available to transport the trav-

elling press contingent. Mr Clinton said he wanted to go home early "so we can get a better night's sleep", and this was the line repeated by his spokesman, who said they

had busy schedules. But Marsha Berry, Mrs Clinton's spokeswoman, said that Mrs Clinton's back was to

blame. Rita Cosby, of Fox News

the skiing trip, has had back problems since last spring. Ms Berry said it was not appropri-ate to discuss the Clintons' sleeping arrangements.

A report by Matt Drudge, the Internet gossip columnist, claimed the couple were experi-menting with a "trial separation", which involved giving each other as much room as

He quoted a "Hillary supporter" in the White House as saying that the Broaddrick story had led to the new-deterioration in relations.

"She was humiliated. He can't keep doing this to her. He promised her over and over again that this rape story was not going to amount to anything. It has caused a serious breakdown," the source

Drudge also wrote that a Secret Service agent who gave evidence about the Lewinsky affair before the grand jury, was considering leaving his job because of the hostility between the Clintons. "They may look like they are together, like a couple. They are not. It is all played for the cameras," said

A former Clinton adviser, who was said by Drudge still to be close to the couple, was quoted as saying. This is more than a fight, but they have gone through a separation like this before. They always come back to each other . however, this time it looks



Showing the strain: President Clinton and Hillary, forced together at a recent dinner

Family funeral for a folk hero

By GILES WHITTELL

JOE DiMAGGIO, revered as an icon of baseball but also of the art of being a celebrity. was buried yesterday in San Francisco, near his home town of Martinez. His estranged son was among the pallbearers at a funeral attended only

by family members. President Clinton. Tom Hanks and Jack Nicholson were reportedly among those who asked to attend but were turned down in accordance with DiMaggio's instructions. "Joe insisted that his funeral be a private religious service," his lawyer, Morris Engelberg.

said before the event. About 40 close friends and family members filed into the Saints Peter and Paul Catholic Church in the city's Italian North Beach district, where DiMaggio grew up and married his first wife, Dorothy Arnold, in 1939. His coffin was decorated with white orchids matching lavish floral arrangements throughout the building, a spokeswoman said.

Though he was married briefly to Marilyn Monroe. DiMaggio loathed Hollywood's personality cults and never publicly discussed his marriage after their divorce in

He had not seen his only child, Joe Jr., for two years, but left him a trust fund in his will to yield \$20,000 (£12,000) a year for life. The younger DiMaggio, who lives in a trailer and works in a junkyard. carried the coffin from the

Whitewater figure back in court

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

ONE woman's stubbornness has prevented prosecutors finding out if President Clinton lied under oath about his business dealings, a jury was told in Little Rock, Arkansas. The claim was made at the

opening of the third trial in three years for Susan McDougal, 44, a pivotal but until now largely silent figure in the original Whitewater fiasco.

cide if she is shielding the President or if Kenneth Starr, the independent prosecutor, tried to bully her into giving false evidence against Bill and Hillary Clinton.

McDougal has already spent 18 months in prison for

civil contempt of court for refusing to answer questions before Mr Starr's Whitewater Grand Jury in Little Rock. Now she has been charged with criminal contempt and obstruction of justice for the



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CUTTING

JANE SHILLING

Mother's Day meant joining a queue of sticky-fingered chil-dren at the altar of our local church to be given, by the priest, a posy of primroses and early catkins so fragile that even though the stems were wrapped in damp moss, the flow-ers had usually started to wilt before we could hand them over to our mothers.

A generation later the modern mother is unlikely to be impressed by the rustic simplicity of wild flowers and wet moss — at least if the big stores publicity is to be be-

There is a peculiar air of menace

forget this date. It's Mother's Day and it's payback time." Selfridges' Yellow magazine. "Make her day", urged the posters in Marks & Spencer. Blimey. It makes you wonder what kind of moth-

ers their copywriters can have had. It is possible that Germaine Greer who goes to some length in her new book to remind us that, the advances of feminism notwithstanding, mothers remain slighted, exploited, insulted and undervalued

- might find some attraction in this portrayal of menacing motherhood. But for some reason I find myself irritated by it both as a daughter and a mother. I don't care for notions of coercion and obligation where these relationships are concerned. If my son buys me a present for Mother's Day I would like it to be because he felt like it. not because he was nagged into it by retailers.

Suppose that I have been a good enough mother for my son to feel that I deserve a reward. What sort of thing might he buy me? There is a delicate psychology here, well

time your mother is a harridan whose conversation consists of the randomly repeated phrases "pick that up" "have you finished your homework? and "what time do you call this?". You may be surprised to learn that she would not disagree. But she blames it on you. Before you came along she was a babe with a rock-hard stomach and a string of admirers, none of whom ever heard her scream "get your feet off that sofa or I will kill you".

If you are clever you will buy her some little object which subtly suggests that her Inner Babe has not altogether vanished. The results in terms of amnesia about the nine - militancy even - about the build-up to March 14. "Do not rary annesty in her patrols of your sex life and so on -

may be well worth-So, where to begin? Flowers and chocolates are best avoided. Unless they are exquisite

reek of duty unwillingly done. But for a maximum budget of £20 you can buy the Old Thing real jewels. At Marks & Spencer an elegant necklace of black freshwater pearls on a silvery chain looks far more expensive than its price of £12.

Oasis has a range of sterling silver jewellery beautifully packaged in pale turquoise boxes. A silver sphere on a foxtail chain is £9.99. Black freshwater pearl drops on silver hoops are £6.99. A pair of tiny turquoise studs costs £4.99 and a mother-of-pearl inlaid dog tag on a chain is £14.99. The Victorians, with their fondness for sentimental puns, would have thought Oasis's luscious

purple-velvet pansy (Pensee) hair-clips, £4.99, a perfect Mother's Day present (a matching hairband is L'Occitane, too, is good on luxury at pocket-money prices. Generous



cubes of appropriately named Bonne Mère soap scented with lavender, verbena or wild rose are £2.45, small, £3.95 large. Eaux de l'oilette in scents redolent of rural France - jasmine, honeysuckle, rosewood, vanilla — are £8.50 for an old-fashioned, gold-topped bottle, or £16.95 for a large atomiser. Tiny bottles of flower essences or handbag-sized tins of solid perfume are £4.95. L'Occitane giftwraps beautifully at no extra cost. Muji is another pocket money

treasure trove. A silver mesh pencil or make-up case is £2.95. Goodsized silver mesh vanity cases are £5.50 small, £6.50 large. A brushedaluminium handbag mirror is £3.50 and matching atomiser £5.95. Pure silk body sponges and wash cloths are £4.95. And the most kitchen-shy of mothers would be pleased with Muji's elegant red lacquer chopsticks from £2.95 a pair, or the fragile-looking thrush-egg blue porcelain bowls

Buying make-up for other people is an enterprise full of pitfalls. But Warehouse has smart, clear-plastic pouches with four little bottles of nail varnish, or three lipsticks and a lip gloss, in subtle, pinkish colours, that would flatter any skin tone for £10 each.

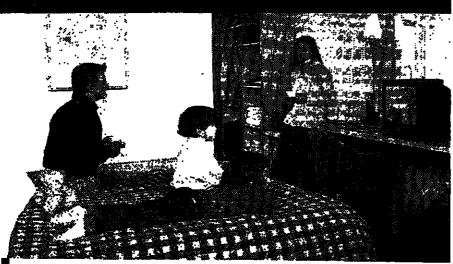
Children with an affection for Pooh Bear may be captivated by La Senza's silk camisole and knicker sets, £20, in a heavenly hyacinth blue, printed with Pooh holding a bunch of flowers in his paw. In general I share Dorothy Parker's nau-seated reaction to Winnie the Pooh and his chums, but for some reason I found these garments adorable.

If you are not sure of your moth-er's reaction to this sort of camp whimsy, you would be on safer ground at Accessorize with a sapphire or cyclamen sari bag embroidered with gold thread and mirror fragments from £9.99; an intricate "pearl" choker, from £5.99; a pale blue beaded change purse, £6.99; or a matching pale blue glass bead

necklace, £3.99, and bracelet, £2.99. And if all this still seems too girly, the sophisticated child might try his mother with a handbag-sized. ring-binder notebook covered in an amazing material that reflects a riot of pink roses and jasmine from one angle, flipping to an ethereal blue background scattered with multicoloured butterflies. At £9.99 it may be a long way from primroses and damp moss, but it's not quite the raw cynicism of "payback



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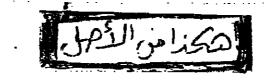
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Want a baby? Read this first

Model Betti Romani had romantic hopes of life after a baby. Just 19 months later, she and her partner are living apart. Sally Morris reports

Arianna

already

there'

year ago Betti Roma-ni, a striking Italian model, and her partner Sebastian Vince took part in a BBC documentary about first-time parents, in which their expectations of parenthood were contrasted with the reality of life in the first months after the birth of their daughter, Arianna. It was a salutary but some-

times funny story and, for those viewers with children, a reassuringly familiar one. year later, however, things have changed dramati-

cally. Betti and Sebastian split up last September, a week before Arianna's first birthday. They got back together in November but are still living apart.

Betti, 27, lives showed up with 19-month-old Arianna in the couthe cracks ple's one-bedroom North London flat while Sebastian lives in the West Midlands, running a specialist bread ousiness. He sees them at weekends. Betti is a different woman

from the confused new mother Although she still lacks selfconfidence, she also displays a new-found strength. In a follow-up documentary to be shown this Sunday, she admits that her romantic notion of motherhood and family life has been destroyed. "I had no idea how much

strain having a baby can put on your relationship," she says. "Having Arianna showed up the cracks already there. I thought we would both put in the effort to change. Now I am more cynical."

Although Sebastian's reason for leaving his job as a copywriter and setting up his bread business in the West Midlands was purely a business one, the distance between them did not help.

"I would travel up to visit but he was tired and wanted to relax, and I was frustrated because I wanted us to do things as a family. Sebastian is very good with Arianna and loves her, but as a mother I think that you accept responsibility for your child and the sacrifices you have to make more want to hold on to their old life. Of course I would like to go out and have a good time, but I don't want to come home to a babysitter when I've been

drinking, It's wrong."
As a childless couple, Betti Sebastian mixed with models and advertising executives. Staying out late was the norm. Yet after Arianna's ar-rival their lives became polarised: Betti at home, Sebastian at work. She resented him continuing his social life; he resented the pressure on him.

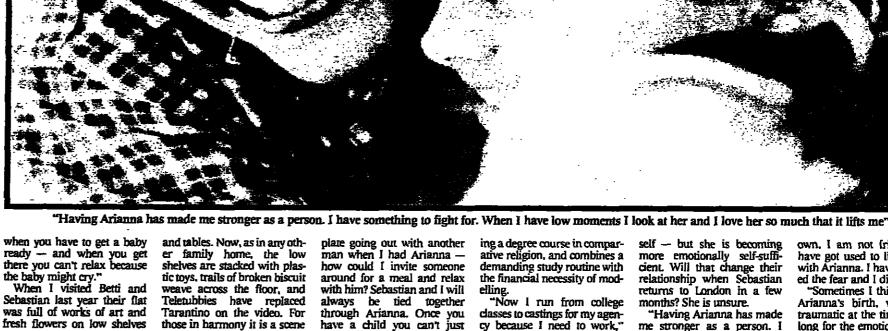
"For the partner out at work, daytime life continues pretty much as before," says mance at home 'Having

that goes. I did try to look good and to be warm for Sebastian - sex is very mentally as well as physically — but you cannot forget that there is always a baby around. Arianna is still awake and playing in the evenings. "Suddenly

just weren't kissing each other any more. When Sebastian came home from work late because he had been out with his friends, I would be upset and criticise him. Then he would feel even less like coming home early the next night.

"When you are home alone with a baby, you don't feel you can compete with friends who are free to stay out when they like, and you feel you are being shut out. If you are insecare, this makes you worse.

"Even my close girlfriends who don't have children ring up to suggest that we go out, and say 'I'll see you in half an hour,' without realising how long it takes to get anywhere



symbolic of family bonding. For those with problems it is another example of how your life is no longer your own. The split with Sebastian was sudden, shocking and oainful, says Betti.

was very nuit and voi especially vulnerable when you have a small child," she says. "I was frightened by the idea of being a single mother — not because I thought that I couldn't rebuild my life, or that I'd never find another man, but because I felt sad that we had split up without

considering the consequences

properly.l couldn't contem-

plate going out with another man when I had Arianna how could I invite someone around for a meal and relax with him? Sebastian and I will always be tied together through Arianna. Once you have a child you can't just move on."

What Betti has experienced, as a result, is a fierce fight for survival that overrides any self-pity. A year ago she could not contemplate returning to work and was doubtful about for Arianna. Now she is tak-

ing a degree course in comparative religion, and combines a demanding study routine with the financial necessity of mod-

"Now I run from college classes to castings for my agency because I need to work. she says. "Sebastian has always helped with money so I could afford childcare, but 1 need to earn my own money.

"I have a childminder three days a week but the rest of the time Arianna is with me. J study late at night

self - but she is becoming more emotionally self-suffi-cient. Will that change their relationship when Sebastian returns to London in a few months? She is unsure.

"Having Arianna has made me stronger as a person. I have something to fight for. When I have low moments, I look at her and I love her so much that it lifts me. Getting back together is a gradual thing. I am looking forward to trying to make it work because í still love him — but having

own. I am not frightened. I have got used to living alone with Arianna. I have confronted the fear and I didn't die.

"Sometimes I think back to

Arianna's birth, which was traumatic at the time - but I long for the emotional feeling of giving birth to a child again.
"It would be nice to have

another baby one day, although it would be playing with fire to think about it now. But yes, I'd do it all again."

 Teething Problems, BBC2 Betti has no time left for her- been through this time on my Sunday, 10pm.

for clear explanations in plain

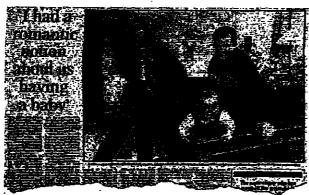
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E**nglish** - not jargon



A year ago: how we reported Betti's parenthood experiences

Always judge a cookbook by its novel ingredients

ing through a recipe book or two, can feel bold enough to experiment with ingredients themselves. And, if the mood grabs you, there's nothing to stop you visiting these people in hospital as they recuperate from their hunch that oysters and meringues would make a novel marriage in fact it proved so novel that even Mickey Rooney and Zsa Zsa Gabor, who have shown

time and again over the years that they

will wed almost anything, would think twice before marrying these two items. As a result of this difficulty in dream-

ing up fresh combina-tions of ingredients. you find that people who sit down to write a recipe book often end up not writing many of these recipes themselves. They just fill the pages with other neonle's recipes. They can do this be-

cause recipes seem to exist in a copyright limbo whereby you can fatten up a book with other chefs' recipes, as in: "I always eat this dish at Harry's Bar when I'm in Venice, where Arrigo created the following wonderful recipe . . . This is why the

HOLA

only people still inventing recipes are manufacturers manufacturers of tinned foods. They

think you're more likely to buy their tins if they print a handy recipe on the back of the can. This combines their product range in hitherto unimagined serving suggestions", such as "tomato soup with cling peaches, anchovies and sweetcorn niblets - an easily prepared meal that can be enjoyed by all the family, providing their senses have been dulled by long addiction to recreational

JOE JOSEPH

Writers, of course, are shy about plagiarising other people's recipes, believ-

tion is how they earn their crust. Hence in The Hemingway Cookbook, which is being published to celebrate Hemingway's centenary, Ernest shares his personal he-man recipes for fillet of lion ("First obtain your lion. Skin him and remove the two strips of tenderloin from either side of the backbone. These should hang overnight in a tree out of reach of hyenas"), and for bear steaks (which Papa liked to eat on sourdough pancakes spread with

marmalade). But Hemingway is far from being the only great writer to have squandered Sunday afternoons in the kitchen, juggling hot saucepans to invent dishes that reflect his literary personality.

Take Harold Pinter. He has published a collection of recipes that are cooked wherever the literary intellicentsia meet to cat. The star is Harold's famous bolognese sauce: "Get some beef. Some pork, too. Mince them. Fine. Not too fine. You follow? Not too frigging fine. What good would that do? It would do no good at all. Too fine, that would get us no-

where. Fry the meat.

Then pause. You fried the onions? No? I didn't think I'd need to mention the frying of the onions. I thought, everyone knows about the frying of the frigging onions. Hey Frank, you know about the onions? |Frank nods. | See. even Frank knows. But you,

you're a non-starter. "Why am I wasting my time teaching you anything? Briggs just won't believe it when he finds out. I can only assume that you are a poof! Is that what you are? A poof are you? You make me sick." [Harold stomps out of the room

pe for pancakes: "Get some plain flour. Before measuring 80z into a mixing bowl, call Margaret and tell her how impressive she looked on News at Ten last night. On your way back to the kitchen. open the front door to a minion from Clarence House delivering a lunch invitation from the Queen Mother.

"As you scribble a reply, find yourself interrupted by a call from Henry Kissinger| seeking advice on the best way to handle Kosovo. Tell him it's best served chilled, with blinis. Fetch eggs, milk and sugar, and tell cook to do the rest since you'll be too busy helping Tony and Gordon to run the country.

Noel Coward - who liked his pancakes "very, very flat, like Norfolk" — published The Noel Coward Singing Cookbook to cheer everyone up after the war. It was here that Coward first unveiled his famous "Duck Casserole With Sage" ("Don't be too stingy with the sage. Mrs Worthington/ Don't be too stingy with the sage! First you get a petite duckling: the best ones are from Brest! And the width of the pot, matters a lot, for your dish to be a success/ Remove the guts, Mrs Worthington / Don't add nuts, Mrs Worthington/ For cooking times, please turn the page!").

any scholars now believe that it was a passion for cooking that cheered up Dorothy it was a passion for cooking Parker in her darker moments. It appears that Resumé, her famous poem on life and suicide ("Razors pain you; rivers are damp ..."), began life as the introduction to Parker's Party Food ("Kidney tastes vicious; I don't like clams/ Lamb's delicious; but not with jams/ Soak summer berries, in Earl Grey tea/ Pour in some sherry; Bon appetit!").

Of course, it doesn't always run as smoothly as bollandaise. For instance, Stephen King's Favourite Recipes ("Gigot d'agneau: buy a lamb from a nearby farm. Slaughter the lamb by chasing it around the house with a large chainsaw. to the accompaniment of loud, jangly music...") had to be withdrawn from bookshops after being panned: not by literary critics, but by the US Food and Drug Administration.

King says the whole sorry episode still leaves a nasty taste in his mouth.

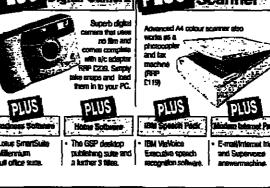


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Playgrounds for political correctness

Race zealots threaten our

children, says George Bridges

The dock is already crammed full of Britain's police. Now it is to be stuffed with teachers. According to Ofsted, the school inspectorate, teachers in "many schools" are guilty of institutional racism.

Bunkum. Ofsted's kangaroo court is guilty of a miscarriage of justice, the consequences of which could be more heinous than the supposed crime itself. Britain's education system is guilty of institutional incompetence, not racism. More than in one in five adults. whetever their colour, can barely read a bus timetable. Instead of addressing this failure, we have become dis-

tracted by those who argue

that just because a child is from a particular ethnic group, he or she is more likely to join that one fifth of the adult population. Such claims. based on a premise that colour and ability are linked, smack of racism themselves. They also ignore the facts. The performance of Indian, Chinese and other Asian pupils continues to outstrip those of

white children. So why the fuss? Those who have driven the debate do not want primarily to equip children for the world, but to change the world. The classroom, like the police canteen, has become a focus for political struggle rather than better standards.

For the ideologues education. Two plus as the American academic Paul Gottfried observed. about now "changing social structures and attitudes". Sailing under the flag of racial equality, with favourable wind of the Macpherson inquiry behind it, an armada

of political ideologues is approaching Britain's schools. You don't need to look in the crystal ball, just read their books. On the shelves of the Institute of Education, the academy of teaching practice. can be found one particularly revealing title. Education to-

wards Race Equality. its author argues that if racism is seen as a set of prejudices held by a minority, this "denies the structural aspects of racism in the education system and in society. As a result, education needs to be "not merely reformed, but transformed". Quoting a colleague's work, teachers are told: "Education will have to be reconceptualised in the context of the culture and the social formation in which it takes place . . . People must use new ideas to change the mental outlook of the whole of society". Welcome to PC

world. The logical consequence of reform is a change to the whole national curriculum. Just such a demand was made by the authors of the Macpherson report. And it was not

issued in a vacuum.

A programme for reform already exists in Ethnic Relations and Schooling. This includes the claim that the curriculum is guilty of reflecting "the ethos and culture of the white middle-class Anglo-Saxon. It excludes the significant input from so-called World countries". Worse, the curriculum has been "increasingly directed

towards the achievement of ideological ends".

If you're worried about the curriculum being bent for "ideological ends", you might well ask what it should be doing changing "the mental outlook of the whole of society". But those using race to transform our classrooms have a suitably revolutionary approach to English language. The PC grammar runs thus: I am motivated by compassion, you are motivat-

ed by politics, and the curricu-lum is riddled with ideology. So everything should be taught to let pupils "reflect critically about the multi-faceted causes of racism and about ethnic and cultural relationships". And they mean everything. You might think maths teaching should be a valuefree zone. Two plus two makes four, whatever colour you are. Wrong. By placing the empha-sis entirely upon "conceptual understanding. algorithmic performance and problemsolving", maths has become culturally cold, barren and dead". This approach "fails to convey the power of mathematics to reveal the inequalities. differences. discriminations and orders in society which

ought to be addressed". Labour's manifesto states that more than half of 11-yearolds do not reach expected standards in maths, and yet

two no

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addressing this failure is no longer the priority. Now two plus two equals an unfair division of resources between white and black. American classrooms are dripping with "ethnomathe-

matics", in which maths is taught with an Afrocentric bias. In Focus on Algebra: an Integrated Approach, pupils are taught about linear functions with reference to the Dogon tribe in West Africa

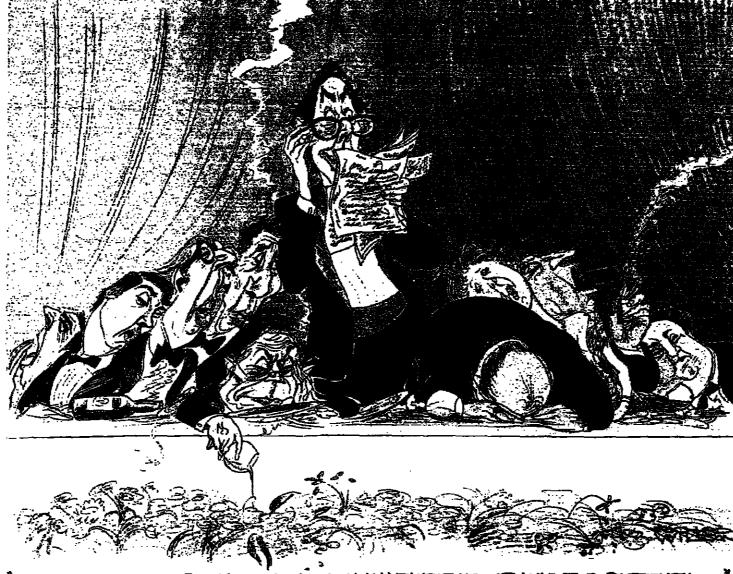
which, the book claims, discovered that Jupiter has satellites. Saturn has rings and Sirius is orbited by an invisible star once every fifty years. You might know that the Dogon, resourceful though

they may have been, did not make these discoveries. You may be thinking that this excursion into African history has next to nothing to do with linear functions. But that misses the point. Afrocentric education — as opposed to simply multicultural education aims to enthuse black pupils by wresting control of knowledge from the perceived "white elites".

want teachers to enthuse

black pupils and parents. But not by wresting control from anyone. Teachers serve all their pupils best by being allowed to decide what is right for their class, so long as pupils are taught to read, write and add up as early as possible. The curriculum was intended to educate the young better, not to balkanise them. The only tables that count are those that measure schools. not those which set ethnic groups against each other. If we forget that, our children will have every right to place us in the dock for preferring a bogus notion of equality to genuine opportunity.

george.bridges@the-times.co.



LIE ... IF I CAN READ MY OWN HANDWRITING, IT WAS THE SIXTEENTH "

Unaccustomed as I am

art. Earlier this week, a large party of friends gathered at the Chelsea home of the architect, Lord Rogers of Riverside, to salute John Diamond, the writer who is fighting throat cancer. Lord Rogers spoke. Then Mr Diamond spoke. Lord Rogers will not mind my saying that Mr Diamond made the better speech. Mr Diamond has no voice.

He spoke by means of words handwritten on an overhead projector. The words were not written in advance. They were articulated as Mr Diamond thought them, by hand, deftly and deliberately. Each sentence was short, and furny. As the script unfolded we gradually grew used to the rhythm of the pen as proxy for the voice. Each of Mr Diamond's words, of humour, poignancy and affection for his wife. Nigella, were given an extraordinary dignity by the act of being handwritten in our presence.

This was speech, not text. The writing was merely a medium linking one speaking brain and many listening ones. It was far more effective than any voice synthesiser. Mr Diamond wrote with pauses, rushes and other tricks of the calligrapher's art, drawing wit and feeling from the intimate act of handwriting. I felt I could hear Mr Diamond's voice in his pen. Over in seven minutes, it was one of the most moving short speeches I have heard. It was completely silent.

Rhetoric is now all but dead. Once upon a time it joined grammar and logic in the "trivium" of the medieval liberal arts. To command an audience by the power of speech was considered an accomplishment equal to the power of argument or the power of the pen. Now oratory is an old-fashioned word and rhetorical is a term of abuse. Few people distinguish between a speech and the reading of text. Few people can write text that reads well in public.

Even fewer can read it. Yet we have not stopped giving speeches. Speech-making is a raging epidemic, a plague enveloping the social and business life of the nation, impervious to the howls of audiences, the pleading of spouses and the clatter of the Internet. I must hear a dozen speeches each week, bombarding me from lunch and dinner, lecture, reception and presentation. Most are dreadful. The art of hospitality is booming, as is that of the conference. Professional cooks are hired, with the finest

Speech-making is a raging epidemic.

Yet the art of rhetoric is dead

wines, the best of settings, the most talented musicians. There is no shortage of visual aids, amplification and reproduction. No expense is spared. Professionalism is all. Then someone makes a speech.

Civilisation suddenly has to pretend that Demosthenes and Cicero never lived. In the Middle Ages, the speaker would have been trained. He would have studied rhetoric. He would have known that a speech is the "living sentence of a working

mind". In the 17th century, Samuel Butler derided the rhetorician as a namer of tools, who takes up lodgings in a "head that's to be unfurnished". But he believed in the profession of speech. The eminent Mr Pickwick knew rhetoric's first law, that speech is not spoken text, a law broken by almost every speaker today. Spontaneous oratory - the art of knowing what you

want to say but not how you intend to say it — is almost confined to broad-Most speeches in my experience are read, in the words of the giver. because I can't do it any other way". In which case, don't speak. The implication is that the audience has come merely for the pleasure of gazing on the speaker's face, as he reads what it could read far faster on its own. Read speeches are droned. They cannot respond to an audience, maintain eye contact and

supply that lifeblood of rhetoric, which is the transmission of feeling. The business of oratory, said Hazlitt, is "not to inform but to rouse the mind . . . to add feeling to prejudice and action to feeling". Nor can written speeches rely on spontaneous humour. The written joke, dropped into a text as if in desperation, gives it not levity but lead. In his book on speech-making, John Cleese, illustrates this point by plonking a "light-bulb" joke every few paragraphs throughout the

book. Humour should emerge from content. It is the speaker's call-sign to his audience, just as laughter is message received".

Worst of all, almost every speech goes on too long. The rarest sentence in the English language is, Nice evening, but I thought the speeches were too short". The world cries out for more music, more food, more wine, more dancing, more questions even, but never longer speeches. Yet the same people who

> long speeches, as soon as they are on their feet go on too long themselves. They go on too long at receptions, where the audience stands on one leg, bereft of a drink and praying for them to stop — a. torture satirised by Michael Frayn in sions. They go on too long at dinners, everyone wants to go home. Worse, they add speeches to charity

galas, needlessly

endure and deplore

imperilling the gen-erosity of the donors. I once heard the violinist Isaac Stern give a sublime solo performance for a charity, then ruin it with an interminable speech.

Speaking for too long is a sign of nervous amateurism. Disraeli told his acolytes always to "leave the audience wondering why you had not gone on longer, rather than why you had not sat down sooner. The most famous speech in history, the Gettysburg Address, had just ten sentences and 272 words. Verbosity is the symptom of a muddled mind - poor Neil Kinnock was famously incapable of speaking briefly. Woodrow Wilson, when asked how long his speeches took to prepare, said a ten-minute speech took a day, a thirty-minute speech an hour, but an hour-long speech "I could start

In my experience the best speakers, for all their other limitations, are politicians. They make so many and must listen to so many that even the most inept get the hang. The only thing that wrecks a politician's speaking style is when an official prepares a text. He immediately collapses into reading, losing the essence of rhetoric, the illusion of a thought springing newly minted from the mind. I remember a speech by Tony Crosland as Education Minister. He arrived late at a dinner and looked down at what his department had prepared. He grimaced and threw it at the press desk. 'Report that," he barked, and gave a brilliant off-the-cuff performance.

Every minister should copy. The professionals of the conference business have developed tricks to make up for Britain's rhetorical incompetence. They have videos, amplifiers, floopies and sides. They flash a speaker's "bullet points" behind his head, as if both he and his audience were intellectually disabled. Listeners whose eyes must move back and forth from speaker to screen soon lose interest in both. It is as if a statistic is not accurate if not written down, an image not real if not screened, a message not delivered if merely spoken. Hazlitt

ince the urge to make a speech appears impervious to incompetence and shame, speaking must at least be taught. The flower of the medieval trivium must be revived. What was good for Aquinas must be good for the new congregations of Cyberia. Rhetoric should be in the national curriculum, taught from the cradle as the essential companion of that other neglected art, the writing of clear, brief English.

Children should be taught the lesson that John Diamond demonstrated this week, ironically through his silence. His lesson was that the spoken word is a glorious faculty, but that its glory does not ultimately rely on the voice, only on the rhetorical handling of words. So many speakers lay their words limp on the lectern or dinner table, stripped of any cadence or personali-ty. Their speech moves only with the movement of the reading eye. Mr Diamond's handwritten rhetoric did all the things such speeches never do. It paused, scribbled, joked, hovered, caught the attention of those round him. It made us laugh and cry. It was a speech in truth. Who needs a voice when he can make words sing?

comment@the-times.co.uk

substituting euros and cents for

Charity clash

ANTHONY JULIUS has irritated Gordon Brown. The pet lawyer of the late Diana. Princess of Wales, rarely shows at meetings of the Diana Memorial Committee. A serior bod there tells me

"Julius is one of only three (the others are Diana's sister, Sarah McCorquodale, and her butter, Paul Burrell) who represent her interests. It's a shame he can't find time. He's cut down on legal work." So rarely does the would-be poet show up that the Treasury initially doubted if he was even a member. Had Julius applied his big-ish brain more, the committee might have had better luck with its £10

million memorial garden. But Julines puts in loss of work (unpaid) for the charity-helping Memorial Fund - and some wonder if Brown's committee should now retire.

HILLARY CLINTON is off to Morocco on her own, I hear. The MOTOCCO ON ner Own, I near. I ne First Lady is to escape from Bill at that wonderful palace. La Mamounia. In Marrakesh, where Churchill used to paint. The stunning gardens render it a congenial refuge, despite frisky snake charmers. The manager has dashed back from London to haul up the Stars and Stripes.

ZARA PHILLIPS (below), the 17-year-old possessor of the only pierced royal tongue, has saddled up with a dashing new friend:



21-year-old jump jockey Richard Johnson, (above) who is second in the country this season professional-ly and seems to be doing even better with delightful Zara. "Her Mum, Princess Arme, is a very good friend of the National Hunt trainer David Nicholson," I hear. "Richard is Nicholson's stable jockey. That's how he met Zara, lucky fellow."

VHAT colour pyjamas does William Hague wear? When asked, as politicos are these days, he blushed: "I don't wear anything in bed." Lucky Ffion.

■ WHEN Paddy goes to Heaven, angels will sing away his sexual guilt. Will I See You in Heaven?, Father Michael Seed's stirring collection about afterlife, includes a long submission from Ashdown and my man with the flagellation whip sees this as an apology for his "pantsdown" slip. "It's very strong, full of contrition," says Seed. "The sense of guilt is very strong."

Paddy's office is insistent: "There is nothing in it about atonement. It is about spending time in Heaven with his family." Perhaps Paddy was inspired by the re-emergence of his ex-mistress, Tricia Howard, after he announced he was retiring: "No one has measured up to Paddy before or since," she pants.



HISTORY'S circle is turning on Merseyside: Derek Hatton's old Militant chums have been suspended by the national party for "not being Marxist enough". The Trots say Liverpudlians are "moving too far to the Right". Peter Taaffe, general secretary, tells me they "are too optimistic about the prospects for world capitalism". Cheerful swine.

HEREDITARY peers are consulting lawyers to wangle redundancy when they receive P45s from the Lords. Insisting they have a contract until the next Parliament, a group led by Lord Palmer may call for pay-offs similar to those won by ex-Cabinet ministers.

There are rumours stirring. We have given our lives to this job and it is being taken away." "Biscuits"

'Fifty grams of five-cent rice, Fifty grams of banoffee treacle, That's the way the euro goes, Pop goes the weasel'

he changeover plan for the euro should affect not merely the wide boys in yellow braces in the City, and manufacturers of slot-machines and insolent holes-in-the-wall that spit back plastic at us. The Government has allocated millions in order to prepare for this (hypothetical, do not paniel) monetary change.

But it has not yet thought through the literary and linguistic consequences of getting rid of the pound. And it should, as a matter (as pontificators pomp it) of urgency. So who better than Chris Smith, Secretary of State for Culture, to set up a quango, partly funded by National Lottery dosh, to prepare English language and literature for the momentous death of the pound sterling, avoirdupois and of other homonymous sorts?

Otherwise, schoolchildren a century from now may miss the point of Shylock's pound of flesh, first taken literatim by him and then verbatim by Portia, trumping him. They will, no doubt, still find Shylock the giant character of that play, blotting out Antonio and those other Venetian yuppies as majestically as Macbeth and his Dragon Queen blot out the other assorted Scots in their play. (Methinks the Lady doth writhe and grope and calculate arithmetic too much in her nightie in the current production in Shaftesbury Avenue.) To have Shylock insisting on his bond of 0.45359 kilograms of flesh will not fit into an iambic pentameter. So scholars must devise a version that preserves the measure without losing the metre.

Similarly urgent work is needed on other literary references to the pound which are about to become obsolete and unintelligible. I suppose that we could keep both currencies current by

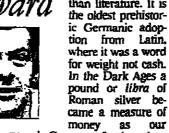
one-and-twenty/ I heard a wise man say:/ Give crowns and pounds and guineas/ But not euros away." This may lose a romantic point. But it makes a new one, undreamt

of by Housman: that money can't buy you friends in the EU; it can only rent them. The enigmatic nursery rhyme can be rewritten without undue difficulty as, "Fifty grams of five-cent rice, Fifty grams of banoffee treacle. That's the way the euro goes. Pop goes the weasel." The references are said to be to a pub and music-hall in the City Road, to pawning a tailor's iron, and then to Another

Newspaper. Bosh. As so often in

children's rhymes, there are

permeated far more than literature. It is



Roman silver became a measure of money as our pound. German pfund, and so on throughout Teutonic languages. It was made up of 100 starling coins or pennies, which had a star (steorra) in Old English embossed upon them.

The point of money is not in its possession or its name, but in its use. There is nothing sacrosanct about our naff pound coins. which slip so easily through the holes in the Puffa pocket to the

hints of an erotic dance. floor of George's car. The last beautiful coins that the Royal Mint struck were the Victorian guinea, with St George sataying the dragon on its reverse, behind the Queen Empress, Victoria's ship halfpenny, and the farthing with a robin on its back.

> Surely we can design more attractive euro coinage than our present tinkling symbols? But rewriting the lan-guage to replace pounds will be harder. "You don't get many of those to the pound" is an ancient sexist remark shared by males as a particularly well-developed pair of female breasts passes by. It has spread all over the English-speaking world without any evident process of communication. It is probably a sibling scribbling to Kilroy was 'ere,

We shall have task forces

which goes back to Marcus fuit

pounds and pence in hundreds of such tags as "it's a pound to a pinch of something unpleasant beginning with sh-", and the old Cockney jocularity, "Given away with a pound of tea", as in "Mum's hat looks as if it was given away with a pound of tea". I know not what we can do about Ezra Pound, who failed to impress Gertrude Stein. She said he was a village explainer. Excellent if you were a village. But if you were not, not. Our euro conversion linguists will have to bear in mind that there are three separate homonyms in pound: an enclosure or pen, the unit of weight, and to pound or bruise, as with a pestle. They must ponder their imponderable and ponderous cognates, from pension to pond. And we must remember that pound or urine. money is of no use to man or beast until we part with it.

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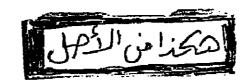
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Lord Allenby of Megiddo croaks: Palmer, scion of the lemon puff dynasty, adds: "It might be worth, taking this to the European Court".





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THE KINGMAKER'S HEAD

Lafontaine is gone, but unlikely to be a quiet ghost

Yesterday Oskar Lafontaine stunned all Germany by resigning as Finance Minister and leader of the Social Democrats. But the critical moment, it appears, was during a Cabinet meeting on Wednesday when Gerhard Shröder, the German Chancellor, read the riot act to his Red-Green coalition. singling out as a "strategic error" the botched tax changes imposed by Red Oskar and his radical Green allies on German business. The result was that Lafontaine walked out. But it is a measure of the reputation for indecision that the Chancellor has deservedly acquired that it was he, not Herr Lafontaine, whom the Bonn rumour mongers had expected to fall on his sword. The story is not over yet.

This is no mere quarrel between prime minister and chancellor, of the kind familiar in British politics. Herr Schröder would never have had the chance to run for the Chancellorship had Herr Lafontaine not permitted it. The king has forced out the kingmaker: and it is still the kingmaker who has the deeper claims on the loyalty of German socialists. Did Herr Schröder do the deed by mistake, as his "surprise" would suggest? This would be a drama in any political context. In modern Germany, where political fratricide is unthinkable the consequences for the governing coalition, and for the Chancellor himself, are

impossible to predict. Herr Schröder now belatedly assumes the seat at the head of the table which his rival had, conspicuously, usurped; but Herr Lafontaine, whose political ambitions must be assumed to be undimmed, will be the most unquiet ghost since Banquo. Voters may see not strength in their Chancellor but further proof of weakness; for Herr Schröder would not have had to get rid of his Finance Minister had he been capable of controlling him. Unless he now puts a firm stop to the bickering which has been his Government's most obvious characteristic and reveals clear ideas of his own about German policy - of which there has so far been precious little evidence this will look like the desperation of a drowning man. The timing, just before the critical EU summit this month, is so bad that there is no way that this can be presented as a premeditated decision.

Yet, provided that chaos has a time-limit and that the Chancellor is not such a fool as to seek honourable exile for Herr Lafontaine as the next President of the European Commission, this is good news for both Germany and Europe. First, it offers some hope of a saner German economic policy. However inchoate the Chancellor's "new middle" may be, it cannot but be an improvement on Herr Lafontaine's ruinous assault on the profitability of German business and his reckless backing for the unaffordable wage demands pressed by the country's powerful unions. The way could even be open to woo the small, liberal Free Democrat Party into the coalition, on a platform of structural reforms to taxes, pensions and rigid labour laws. All these things Germany desperately needs, if it is to act as a stimulus rather than a drag on Europe's prospects for growth.

Secondly, the European Central Bank should find it easier to cut interest rates. Herr Lafontaine's loud demands have made it difficult previously to do so without risk to its reputation for sound money.

Tony Blair should not, however, assume that Germany will now be a convert to his liberalising agenda for the EU. On tax harmonisation and other measures to stamp out what Germans call "social dumping" and economists call comparative advantage. Herr Lafontaine differs from his colleagues only in his readiness to be brutally frank. Herr Schröder is equally convinced that the euro must lead to political union. He just says so in a softer voice and with a more winning smile.

THE CAP STILL GROWS

A farm deal that makes mockery of reform

Any negotiation that ends just before dawn tends to be hailed by the bleary negotiators as an historic breakthrough. Daylight brings truth. So it is with the bargain stitched up yesterday by European Union agriculture ministers on "reforming" the common agricultural policy. Its best claim to historic status is that, even by the low standards of EU negotiation, it represents an unusually complete triumph of sectoral special pleading over economic realism and sound policy.

By all the yardsticks which this negotiation had to satisfy it falls well short. The deal will not solve the EU's immediate budgetary problems, let alone meet the challenges of EU enlargement. It will not help the farmers who most need support, or free those who are able to compete on open markets from the restrictive lunacies of price-fixing or production quotas. It in no way fits the EU, the world's second largest exporter and biggest importer of farm produce, for the next round of global trade negotiations. And rather than cut the cost of a system that already absorbs half of all spending by Brussels, as the last EU summit had instructed farm ministers to do, it adds a further £680 million to the £3.7 billion the Commission's original proposals would already have added to the

2000-06 CAP budget. The final decision on this deal, a crucial. component of what is supposed to be a far-reaching overhaul of EU finances to make room for new members, rests with heads of government. There is a strong possibility that it will unravel well before the start of the EU summit on March 24. It deserves to do so, although there is no guarantee that further haggling will produce improvements. Presented with Commission proposals that were already well short of what is required for real

reform, the farm ministers have either postponed "difficult" decisions, such as abolishing the dairy quotas that artificially prevent British farmers from meeting domestic demand, or taken decisions that are blatantly retrograde. A 30 per cent cut in guaranteed beef payments, for example, was the absolute minimum required to avoid a return to the beef mountains for which the EU was notorious in the past. Instead, it will be 20 per cent; and it is the same story with grains. Siec and are, indispensable.

Even more disappointing is the rejection of the few proposals which could be classed as structural reforms rather than mere tinkering. The first would have required national governments, rather than EU central funds, to bear part of the cost of compensating farmers for cuts in guaranteed prices. Only when taxpayers see that each failure to cut the costs of the CAP has a direct impact on spending on other national priorities will there be serious political pressure to change the system. This was stopped by France — proving that Germany will still, when it comes to the crunch, put the Franco-German marriage ahead of the common EU interest.

The second was the Commission's plan to concentrate direct financial assistance on poorer farmers, while setting a ceiling on compensation payments to those perfectly able to prosper without public subsidy. The ceiling was lofty: it would have scaled down payments after the first £70,000. This time, it was Britain which blocked the way. to protect its most efficient big farms some of which stand to receive a wholly indefensible £700.000 a year. Tony Blair claims to be dissatisfied with this miserable piece of cobbling. But a fresh start is impossible unless he admits Britain's share of the blame and alters course.

BATTLE OF THE DINNER PLATE

The Prince enjoys the hospitality of Uruguay

Putting his best foot forward, the Prince of Wales tangoed his way on to front pages all over the country yesterday. He could be forgiven for being a little less thrusting as he proceeds across the borders into Uruguay. British envoys have not always found there the hospitality they might have expected. Some of them still recall how Sir Geoffrey Jackson, the late British Ambassador in Montevideo, was captured by a guerrilla group, imprisoned in damp dungeons and had to pass several months in stoical isolation before persuading his captors to set him free.

These mere diplomatic infelicities may now be history. But the course of Latin American polítics flows, as ever, more swiftly than the smooth River Plate by which that great World War II naval battle was fought. After 11 years of ill-tempered military rule, Uruguay returned to civilian government in 1985. The current head of state, President Sanguinetti, presides over what is indeed a sanguine democracy. The days when this pocket-sized nation was known as the Switzerland of South America are long gone. But the quality of life in Uruguay is still far better than that of most other countries in the continent.

In the language of the native Charrua Indians. Uruguay means "river of the painted birds". Parakeets screech through

plantations, bright painted waterfowl paddle lagoons. These have become one of the tourist attractions of an unassuming nation which emerges from reticence once every four years when minds wander to the subject of past World Cup winners.

Uruguay gained the world championship twice, and though that was long ago in 1930 and 1950 — it remains remarkable that so small a nation should have raised such teams. Just three million people inhabit a country the size of England and Wales, with well over half of them in the slow, time-warped capital of Montevideo.

The only conflict, then, that Prince Charles is likely to face in this now peaceful and courteous country is the battle of the dinner plate. In the land where Fray Bentos is a town not a tin, where the cattle which graze the sprawling pastures outnumber the inhabitants three to one, meat is a mainstay. Steaks, each the size of a decent principality, are set sizzling on grills. A good local parrillada washed down with regional wine makes a feast fit for a monarch - and his retinue. As Prince Charles tucks in, a nation may take pride that this is not the first time it has served the British well. Some of his countrymen still think fondly of the tins of meat from Uruguay which fuelled the Allies through the century's hungriest years.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

social inequality

From Mr David de Gale

Sir. There is an important distinction between "stealth taxes" and "tax increases" (Anatole Kaletsky's article, March II). The latter have to be paid; the former are, to some extent, voluntary. One can smoke or drink less, or not at all; a small car will make up for the higher cost of petrol.

"Modestly higher taxes" are needed, as Mr Kalestsky accepts, to rebalance national expenditure to the advantage of the young (education), the old (pensions/health) and small businesses. To achieve this, even on a partially voluntary basis, is a remarkable accomplishment.

This Budget is a confirmation for those of us who reluctantly voted against the Conservative Government in the belief that a change was necessary to alleviate serious social im-

If Mr Hague takes note of this, then he may yet become Prime Minister. But, to judge by the uniform howls against the Chancellor by your correspondents today, he has a very hard

Yours etc. DAVID de GALE. Dernford Barn. Saxmundham, IPI7 2BQ March II.

From the Director of the Catholic Housing Aid Society

Sir, This society welcomes the Chancellor's decision to phase out mort-gage interest tax relief, which has distorted the housing market and subsidised the better off. However, instead of funding a tax reduction, we believe the money saved should be used to prevent homelessness among

low-income homeowners.
Unlike those who rent their home. homeowners on low incomes are ineligible for help until six to nine months after losing their job. As a result many experience arrears, repossession and homelessness.

As a step towards helping the 30,000 families who face losing their homes this year. Miras savings should be recycled back into housing to help prevent homelessness, re-gardless of whether people rent or buy, through an integrated housing

Yours sincerely. ROBINA RAFFERTY. 209 Old Marylebone Road, NWI 5QT.

From Mr Les Holley

Sir, I should like to congratulate the Chancellor on an excellent Budget. People such as myself on a low income will begin to feel that working is worthwhile at last.

Yours faithfully, L HOLLEY, 23a West Street Harrow on the Hill. Middlesex HAI 3ED.

From Mr Mark McArthur-Christie

Sir, Drivers will be much poorer after the Budget, with another 6 per cent hike in the price of fuel. Is this just the start of a Labour campaign to force them off the roads into poorly funded and inadequate public transport? The freedoms brought by the car are increasingly being ignored and drivers made to feel guilty.

Car taxes should be ring-fenced and

spent on improving the road network. The Association of British Drivers is launching a campaign for fair taxation: isn't it time drivers were listened to?

Yours faithfully, MARK McARTHUR-CHRISTIE (Roads and traffic spokesman). The Association of British Drivers, PO Box 19608, London SE19 2ZW. March 10.

From Mr Gavin R. Dobson Sir. Why is it that perfectly legitimate activities are sanctimoniously tainted as "loopholes", that must then be "closed" after which they must be

"taxed"? I am getting uneasy about the enveloping mist of fiscal correctness coming from our controllers.

Yours faithfully. GAVIN R. DOBSON. The Blair, Blairlogie, Stirlingshire FK9 5PX. March II.

Hague's future

From Mr N. J. D. Baptiste

Sir, Tim Hames claims (article, March 4) that it is likely that the biggest impact of this year's local authority elections will be on the standing of William Hague. The electorate, however, has already given its verdict: in 638 local council by-elections since the last general election the Conservatives had 80 net gains, Labour 68 net losses, with the Liberal Democrats breaking even.

Yours faithfully, N. J. D. BAPTISTE, 22 The Orchard, Milford-on-Sea, Lymington, Hampshire SO41 0SR. March 4.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046. e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Budget impact on America's use of its global power

From Mr Mark R. Harrington

Sir. Libby Purves has written an informative article regarding the bana-na "crisis" ("This harvest of greed", March 9; see also letters, March 5, 8 and 10). However, I believe her labeling of the United States of America as a "bully" ignores the reality of the United States' genuine role in international affairs.

Allow me to state what I deduce is an extremely common viewpoint here across the pond. Beginning with the Marshall Plan, the people of the US have demonstrated for over 50 years their generosity and commitment to assisting peoples economically around the globe. Even during the most difficult economic spells the US has remained the world's largest donor of money to developing economies as well to the economies of those recovering from natural and

is it wrong, therefore, to expect our largesse to be rewarded from time to time with more than a mere thank you? If we are to provide the cash — be it to Europe, the Middle East, Africa, or wherever -- we will, and do, expect to have a voice in certain economic

decisions. Nations who do not wish to see the US in this role should not accept any US dollars. We are all free to cut off our noses to spite our faces.

Quite frankly, many Americans are fed up with receiving nothing but insults whenever our domestic economic interests conflict with our global economic interests

Respectfully, MARK R. HARRINGTON, 3443 Mohanna Street, Apartment 2204, Dallas, Texas 75209. mark8plus@aol.com March 10.

From Mr Christopher D. Kent Sir, Having read Libby Purves's article, I am ashamed, as an American, by my country's actions in the so-called banana war.

Now that the US is the world's only "superpower", we are becoming increasingly crass, amoral and - 1m afraid - truly imperialistic.

Yours sincerely. CHRISTOPHER D. KENT, PO Box 739. Westbrook, Connecticut 06498. March 9.

Trade disputes with US

From Mr Richard Branson

other disasters.

Sir. I have been following the dispute between the US and the EU about bananas with interest (letters, March 5, 8 and 10). I cannot help comparing the US Government's claim to moral high ground in this case with its apparent determination to maintain the moral low ground in aviation matters.

The US has a policy of discriminating against foreign airlines such as Virgin Atlantic in favour of its own carriers. The list includes the "fly America" policy, under which US civil servants or anyone with a US Goverriment contract is forced to use US airlines; restrictions on leasing aircraft to US carriers; attempts to ban gambling on foreign aircraft in international airspace in contravention of international treaty.

This is against a background of repeated US protestations about the benefits of competition and criticisms of the UK for refusing to cave in and accept a new bilateral aviation agreement, which I believe is hopelessly biased towards US airlines.

The UK Government is absolutely right to resist US bullying tactics. Whether it is also right not to react to US discrimination against UK carriers is more of a moot point. UK civil servants can use US airlines: the latter can bid for Ministry of Defence travel contracts; US aircraft are extensively leased to European companies. The loss of income for UK airlines is considerable.

Perhaps it is time the Government was more forceful regarding blatant discrimination against UK compa-nies. The US authorities might then realise that they cannot preach the benefits of free trade only when it suits

hundred posters of Che Guevara. The

fracas over the Churches' much-publi-

cised poster (letters, January 11) has died down at the moment, but the con-

troversy will be forced on our notice

again if, despite an official complaint

ity, it goes up on hoardings and

Sir, I have always relished the story of

the 18th-century bishop in the Church

of Ireland who decided to look through the Creed he recited daily in

his chapel in order to determine how

much of it he actually believed in. He

was a rationalist, and ended up with

"I believe in . . . Pontius Pilate".

Chippenham, Wiltshire SN14 7HH.

tian worship in Bahrain remained

free and open with Sheikh Isa's

church noticeboards before Easter.

Foxton Lodge, Foxton Close, Oxford OX2 8LB.

From Mr Desmond Briggs

Yours faithfully.

JANET TODD,

Yours faithfully.

DESMOND BRIGGS,

Old Werretts, Castle Combe.

March 6.

Yours faithfully. RICHARD BRANSON . (Chairman), Virgin Atlantic Airways Il Holland Park, WII 3TH. March 10.

Pontius Pilate

From Mr P. M. Burrows

Sir, If Pontius Pilate was the harsh, illiberal ruler described by Jewish sources ("Pontius Pilate: the truth", Week-end, March 6; letters, March 10), why was he so fair-minded towards Jesus?

The answer must be that after being led by the chief priests to expect a Che Guevara he was nonplussed to find himself confronted with a Mahatma Gandhi.

Yours sincerely, P. M. BURROWS (Author, Gospel of Doubt, 1998). 41 Harrison Close, Reigate, Surrey RH2 7HS. March 6.

From Mrs Janet Todd

Sir, Though the truth is far from certain, Peter Stothard has given us a valuable insight into the background of Christ's trial and crucifixion.

I believe that his article, illustrated with Jörg Breu the Elder's brilliant painting, will do more to remind people to go to church this Easter than a

The Emir of Bahrain From Sir Roger Tomkys, Master of Pembroke College, Cambridge

Sir, May 1 add a footnote to your obituary of the Emir of Bahrain (March 8)? You emphasised modern Bahrain's

dependence upon Saudi Arabia and the United States. But today's Bahrain was built upon decades of cooperation with Britain which brought education, employment and pros-perity to a tiny Emirate with very limited oil or other resources.

Sheikh Isa, like his father and grandfather, made the British welcome, and counted other expatriates by extension as inviting almost equal treatment. This friendship was not without cost: geography and history, with or without the causeway linking the two countries, made Bahrain dependent on Saudi Arabia: but in an era of Moslem/Christian stress, Chris-

support and he sent packing, despite his country's vulnerability, any neighbouring religious zealots who pressed him to follow the policies of the Sheikh Isa was instinctively supportive of British policies and a great

admirer of the Royal Family. In Bahrain's domestic affairs he was a gifted conciliator. The succession and country are in

good hands, but Britain and the British people have lost an especially warm and sincere friend, and many of us feel deep personal sorrow at his

Yours faithfully. ROGER TOMKYS (Ambassador to Bahrain, 1981-84), Pembroke College, Cambridge CB2 1RF. master@pem.cam_ac.uk March 8.

Gainsborough portrait

From Mr M. J. Michell

Sir, I share the regret of other Marlburians at the reported plan of Marlborough College to sell Henry Hony's great gift of the Gainsborough portrait (details and photograph, March 8).

That I have any appreciation of painting owes much to this picture. Your photograph cannot convey the overwhelming brightness and splendour of its impression on a schoolboy. nor the sense of being in the presence of a piece of work that is of the best in its field. That, I suggest, is worth just as much to the education of the next generation as a swimming pool or "arts centre".

I also remember Henry Hony as a benefactor of great kindness to many boys as well as to the college. I believe his gift was a very particular one, not intended to be convertible into alternative assets at will.

Yours faithfully, JOHN MICHELL (Mariborough College, 1956-60). 61 Sunderland Road, London SE23 2PS. March 8.

From Mrs Elisabeth J. Bartlett

Sir. I am concerned about the wider effect of Marlborough College's attempt to sell its Gainsborough.

Who will want to give donations like this to deserving institutions in future? What better way to make such donations simply stop?

Yours faithfully, ELISABETH BARTLETT. 119 Burbage Road, SE2I 7AF.

Reality of right to roam 'gamble'

From the Chairman of The Moorland Association

Sir. So now we know. The moors along with other areas — are to be "opened up" (report and leading article, March 9). But what will the reality be? Interference with management; disturbance taking its toll on wildlise, with numbers diminishing: bureaucrats having a field day; law-yers prospering; the public confused; the countryside littered with direction

and temporary closure signs. The Government is taking a highrisk gamble with the future of our unique upland heritage. The pity is that it could all have been done peacefully and in a spirit of true

British compromise. For the last ten years, members of this Association have volunteered to establish a locally agreed system of access with sufficient paths and open areas throughout moorland in England and Wales.

instead we now face a future full of complexity, uncertainty and potential antagonism, coupled with an ex-pensive administrative nightmare for everyone.

Yours sincerely, A. MILBANK, Chairman, The Moorland Association, 16 Castle Park, Lancaster LAI 1YG.

From Dr A. P. O'Connor

Sir, My wife and I were amused to hear that a great breakthrough has been achieved in opening up the countryside to ramblers.

We have walked the Oxfordshire countryside for 15 years and have long noticed that the throngs of ramblers thin out 400 yards from any car park or road. Where are the rambling hordes waiting to fill the countryside?

Yours faithfully, A. P. O'CONNOR, 2 Castle End. Deddington, Oxfordshire OXI5 0TE.

From Mr R. C. Millar

Sir. You report that the Country Landowners Association believes the pro-posed legislation on right to roam has destroyed the goodwill of the

countryside". What goodwill was that?

Regards, R. C. MILLAR, 25 Boulters Court. Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 8TH.

Seeing the light

From Professor R. A. Weale

Sir, Your timely report (March 9) on research into the psychological benefits of working in natural as opposed to artificial light shows that there is

nothing new under the Sun. When, in the 1960s, consideration was being given to the construction of windowless commercial buildings, because windows were expensive given the building methods then prevalent, ambient artificial light also received much attention.

ble aspect was due less to its artificiality than to its constancy. Artificial light began to be looked on as an amenity that could be variable, much as daylight. The hike in energy costs in the 1970s stopped all that. It would seem that those concerned with the problems you mention might

It was thought that its uncomforta-

like to take a new look at varying internal environments. Variable dimmers, controlled by random programs, might help to achieve an environment in which time moves faster than it seems in steady illumination.

Yours very truly, ROBERT WEALE, as from: The Athenaeum, Pali Mali, SWIY 5ER.

Women priests

From the Reverend John Papworth

Sir. Why all this fuss about women priests (letters, March 4 and 9)? With the house on fire have people no other preoccupations than to worry about the gender of the fire brigade?

With respect, JOHN PAPWORTH (Editor), Fourth World Review. 24 Abercorn Place, NW8 9XP.

News at 6.30

From Mr Mycal Miller

Sir, ITN are to be congratulated for ringing in the changes, but it seems odd to have "bongs" on the half-hour. Has someone dropped a clanger?

Yours faithfully, MYCAL MILLER, 8 Homestead Park, NW2 6JB. March 9.

Increased incentive?

From Mr John O'Byrne

Sir, Would a National No Smoking Month offer more encouragement to those who want to give up the habit for good (report, March 11)?

Yours truly. JOHN O'BYRNE. 2 Mount Argus Court, Harold's Cross, Dublin 6W.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE March II: The Hon Timothy Lewin was received by The Queen and delivered up the Insignia of the Order of the Garter worn by his father, the late Lord Lewin.

The following were received by The Queen as Her Majesty's Ambassa-dors: Mr John Macgregor (Warsaw) and Mr William Erhman (Luxem-

Mrs Macgregor and Mrs Erhman were also received by The Queen. Dr Peter January was received in audience by The Queen upon his appointment as Her Majesty's Ambas-

Miss Linda Duffield was received in audience by The Queen upon her appointment as British High Commis-

BUCKINGHAM PALACE March II: The Duke of Edinburgh, Founder and Chairman of the International Trustees of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, this morning arrived at RAF Northolt from Belgium. Brigadier Miles Hunt-Davis was in

attendance.

His Royal Highness. Chancellor of
the University of Cambridge, later
chaired a Meeting of the Cambridge
European Trust at Buckingham Pal-

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron and Trustee of The Duke of Edin-burgh's Award, this evening gave a Dinner for Charter Founder Members gham Palace

March II: The Prince of Wales this morning attended a ceremony at the Casa de Cultura, Buenos Aires, where he was presented with the keys to the city of Buenos Aires by the Mayor, Dr

Afterwards, His Royal Highness and Dr de la Rua visited the Villa Lugano Housing Project in Buenos

Subsequently, The Prince of Wales spened the new headquarters building if Metrogas. His Royal Highness later attended a reception given by Her Majesty's Ambassador, Mr William Marsden

and Mrs Marsden. His Royal High-ness this afternoon departed by air for Uniguay.
The Prince of Wales later arrived in the Prince of Wales isler arrived in the Oriental Republic of Uruguay and was received by the President of Uruguay. Dr Julio Sangumeni, His Royal Highness afterwards laid a wreath at the Artigas Monument. The Prince of Wales later attended a

ceremony at Cabildo de Montevideo where he received the Keys of the City

His Royal Highness this evening amended a dinner given in his honour by the President of Uruguay. **BUCKINGHAM PALACE** March II: The Prince Edward this afternoon arrived at London Heath-row Airport from British Columbia.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE March II: The Princess Royal this morning departed Japan for the

Her Royal Highness this afternoon arrived in Manila and was received by Her Majesty's Ambassador to the

Philippines (Mr Alan Collins).

The Princess Royal later visited the British School in Manila.

Her Royal Highness was this evening entertained to dinner by The President of the Republic of the Philippines at Malacarator Palace. Philippines at Malacanane Palace KENSINGTON PALACE

March II: The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, Army Families Federation, this morning received Mrs Geoffrey Sheldon (Chairman) and Mrs Christo-Sheldon (Chairman) and Mrs Christo-pher Bonney (Vice-Chairman).

Her Royal Highness, Patron, the Bobath Centre (for Children with Celebral Palsy), this afternoon visited the Centre, 250 East End Road, London W2.

The Duke and Duchess of Glouces-rer this evening arended the Council for Music in Hospitals' Gala Concert at St Johns Smith Square, London

ST JAMES'S PALACE
March II: The Duke of Kent, Trustee
of the National Science and Industry
Museum, this evening amended the
Science Museum Annual Dinner,
Exhibition Road, London SW7.

School news

Aiton College General Sir David Ramsbotham, GCB, CBE, HM Chief Inspector of Prisons, delivered the Alton College Foundation Lecture on Thurs-day, March II. Nicholas Walters presided; Grace Jowett introduced the speaker and Katherine Brown

proposed the vote of thanks. Reigate Grammar School Reigate Grammar School announce es the following awards for entry

es the following awards for entry in September 1999:
10- and 11- Schokaships
David Armstrong-McKay. Reigate St Mary's Preparatory School, Reigate. St Mary's Preparatory School. Reigate. Peter Arnold, Chirdhuryl School. Reigate. Peter Arnold, Chirdhuryl School. Reigate. Urpinder Grewal. Doods Brow School, Nuffeld: Katherine Hurrell. Redehall Preparatory School. Reigate School Reigate. Bordon McInroy. Reigate St Mary's Preparatory School. Reigate Laura Pendower. Brampy School. Walton-on-the-Hill: Andrew Rivers, Wray Common County Primary School. Jack Tavener. Pelbridge County Primary School. East Grinstead.
13- Schobarship

13- Scholarship Peter Hurreli, Copthorne Preparatory School, Copthorne.

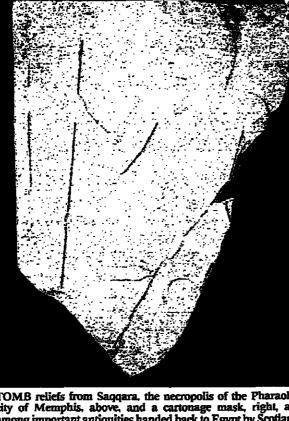
Dinners

Navy Board The American Ambassador and Lord Hurd of Westwell, CH, Chairman of British Invisibles, attended a Lent Term dinner given by the Navy Board last night at Admiralty House. Admiral Sir Michael Boyce. First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff, presided. Science Museum

Professor Lord Winston, accompanied by Lady Winston, was the guest speaker at the Science Museum's annual dinner held yesterday at the Museum. Sir Peter Williams, chairman of the board of trustees, presided. Ye Olde Triponians of Hammton

in Ardeo The annual dinner of Ye Olde Trinonians of Hampton in Arden will be held today at Fentham Hall. Ye Olde Mayor will preside. Service dinner

Air Marshal T.I. Jenner, Chief of Staff and Deputy Commander-in-Chief, Strike Command, was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Universities of Glasgow and Strathclyde Air Squadron held last night at Trades House, Glasgow.



TOMB reliefs from Saqqara, the necropolis of the Pharaohs' city of Memphis, above, and a cartonage mask, right, are among important antiquities handed back to Egypt by Scotland among important antiquines handed tack to Egypt by Scotland Yard yesterday. They had been smuggled out of the country by a restorer who disguised them as garish trinkets. The operation was organised by Jonathan Tokeley-Parry, who was jailed in 1997 for six years. Police were alerted after a British Museum expert recognised one item, which he knew should be in Egypt.

Royal engagements

The Queen will visit HM Customs and Excise VAT Collection Centre

in Southend at 10.25.

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh will visit South East Essex College, Southend at 11.20: Basildon District Council Offices, at 1.10, to mark the 50th anniversation of Burildon.

ry of the foundation of Basildon New Town; the Towngate Theatre in Basildon Centre at 240; and the newly erected Bell Tower of St

Martin's Church at 3.05 to open specially engraved doors before attending a thanksgiving service to mark the anniversary.

The Duke of Edinburgh will visit Keymed (Medical and Industrial

Equipment) in Southend at 10.25; and as Chancellor of Cambridge

University, will attend a reception and dinner at Sidney Sussex College, at 7.30.

HM Government Mr George Robertson, Secretary

of State for Defence, was the host at a function given by Her Majesty's Government yesterday at Admiralty House in honour of

Mr Pavol Kanis, Minister for Defence of the Slovak Republic.

London University Professor Graham Zellick, Vice-

Chancellor of London University,

was the host at a luncheon held

yesterday at 52 Gordon Square in

honour of Mr Peter Caruana, QC. Chief Minister of Gibraltar.

Meeting
Royal Institute of International
Affairs

Lord Carrington, KG, CH, Mr Emmerson Mnangagwa, Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamenary Affairs, Zimbabwe, Lord Owen,

CH, and Brigadier Andrew Parker

Bowles were the principal speak-

ers at a discussion of the Royal Institute of International Affairs

Luncheons

Calls to the Bar

Call Day: March 11

Call Day: March 11
Lincolu's Inn
T P Mannel, Leicester: S Dorarat, Singapore: LJ Harwood, Deriton, Manchester: A M Shahjahan, London E2: Dr S J Stevenson, London SW4: M R Gibbons, London W4: Chong Shin Yih, Singapore: R Selvanayagam, Sutton, Surrey: A C Bury, Blackburn: P I Richardson, London W4: D A Blythin, Conwy, North Wales: H Rashid, Radefiffe, Marchester: R I James, Cheltenham: J B Corrish, Bromley, Kern: Q A Hawkins, London NW1: P M Loy, London SW7: Jererny Yinn Hain Choo. Singapore: D A T Green, Quimton, Birmingham: B I Torrens, Somerset Park, Co Londonderry; M E Saunders, Alderley Edge, Cheshire: N M Ashley. Witham Essee: A O Adenso, London E15: A Wong Kang Way, Johor, Malaysia: R J T Crap, London SES: A R Chowdhary, London E17: N D H Edwards, West Didsbury, Manchester; E A Harwick, London SW1: T Khan. Wroughton, Williams, London NW1: R Rajendra, Petaling, Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia: C Bistomis, London NW1: R Sharet, Schoner, Michlester, D J Wise, Fleet, Hampshire: P A Howes, Eastbourne, East Sussee: A M Quinn, Jersey R, J Thompson, London SE6: J Darwers, London SE13: M A Libren, Burke, Virginia, USA: Z H Jafferi, West Knighton, Leicestershire: S M A Rahaman, London N2: A M Saul, Moriey, Leeds: P C R Wood, Harpenden, Hertfundstrine, a former solicior; M J G Graham. Tynemonth, Tyne and Wear, a former chief crown prosecutor.

crown prosecutor.

Inner Temple
P Tueje, London SEI3: B M Adamson,
London WC: R P Holubowice, London W7:
F Sayed, London NW6: J McDougall,
London NI; G A Green, Boston, Lincolnshire C A Pollard, London SW17: A H Louis,
Thospe St Andrew, Norwich: G R Basaphie,
Bath: S J Shannon, London E3: M L Brewer,
Dunfermine, Fife; R Dulsy, Walsall, West
Midlands: T J C Grey, West Clandon,
Surrey: D E Grant, London SW8: D R
Sulfivan, Hove, East Sussee: L A Daniels,
London WII: V Robertson, Hempnall,
Norwich: S D Darlington-Pearce, Bourne
End, Bockinghanshire.

In absentia ersad. London NIS.

Middle Temple
C H Macleon, London SEIS: R M Rolls.
Bristof: F Zafar, Aberdare. Mid Glamorgan:
R W Houre, Banbury, Oxfordshire; R C
Kreisberger, North Wembley, Middlesec C
Christos, Easthourne, East Susser: T Platen, North Ferriby, Yorkshire: G A Stanley. held yesterday at Chatham House. | Rambam, Surrey; Seng Hong Yeo, Singa- of Antiquaries.

pore; J F Percival, Worcester Park, Survey; J C Sloan, Croydon, Survey; K C Fogarty, Barrister of Ireland, Dublin: E L Kurnner, London E2: M Hall, Manchester, M3; H F G Moont, London NWS: S J Cridiand, Chester: K Molloy, London SWIS: L P Filgrim, London SWIS: A Sinha, London WCi; C S L Say, Pending Java, Selangor, Malaysia: E J Messenger, Lowsonford, Warwickshire: N A Tinery, Haffield, Herifordshire: D A C McDowell, London SWIS: H L Whitehouse, Shifnal, Shropshire: L J Beck, Pets Wood, Kerk R Rubin Mohidem, Singapore, J W Carnochan, Billericay, Esset; E Christon, London NIS; H M Roughi-Brooks, London NIS; H M Roughi-Brooks, London NIS; H M Roughi-Brooks, London NIS; B Shardon, London NIS; H M Roughi-Brooks, London NIS; B Shardon, London NIS; A L Ballie, London SW3: S Chand. Blackburn, Lancastire; A J Pay, London WG; Professor L Lustgarten, Oxford: L J Morgan, a former solicitor, Worsley, Manchester.

Manchesier.

Gray's Inm
D E Wallace, London W2; G C W Spencer.
Grangound, Truro, Coruwall: D M Robinson. Cirenoster, Gloucestershire: G M
Rogers, St. Helens, Micrespide; N N Allen,
S. James, Jamesica: E L Pledge, Beckenham.
Kent: J Mahalingam, Harrow on the Hill.
Middlese: M-T Espiradola. Baildon, Shipley, West Yorkshire: S Philip, Kesnon, Kent: J
R P Rogers, Sherborne, Dorset: E Osturmor, London WCI; A Thomas, Limassol,
Cyprus: S N De Sälva, London E9; A A
Suzin, London WCI; A Thomas, Limassol,
Cyprus: S N De Silva, London E9; A A
Suzin, London WCI; J Townon, Onshott,
Surrey: S Ash. London SW4; S T Cairus,
London SEI; J N Sharpe, London EC: C
Bostock, London WCI; J R Crawford,
Cambridge: M Wyn Jones, a former
solicitor, Ormskirk, Lancashire; G J Marcus, a South African practitioner, Sandringham, Johannesburg: S E Weiner, a South
African practitioner. Sandrodd, JHB,
South Africa: R A K Goddard, a forner
elliciter Deserturer Cheedige D V Lewis African practitioner: Swamwold: JHB, South Africa: R A K Goddard, a former solicitor. Prestbury, Cheshire: D V Lewis, Pontardawe, Swamsea: S I. Peters. Llanelli, South Wales; M J Bradley, Grand Cayman, Cnyman Islands, British West Indies.

Appointments

Sir John Soane's Museum Mr John Studzinski, Managing Director of Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, has been appointed a Life Trustee of Sir John Soane's Museum. Mr Richard MacCormac, CBE, RA, PPRIBA, and Mr Simon Jervis, PFSA, have been appointed designated Trustees, representing the Royal Academy and the Society

Birthdays today

Sir Antony Aciand, former diplomat, 69; Dr Giovanni Agnelli, honorary chairman, Fiat Group, 78; Mr Ru-dolph Agnew, chairman, Lasmo, 65; Mr Edward Albee, dramatist, 71; Mr Mr Edward Albee, dramatist, 7i; Mr R.E. Alley, art historian, 73; Mrs Virginia Bottomley, MP, 5i; Mr Norbert Brainin, concert violinist, 76; Sir Geoffrey de Bellaigue, Surveyor Emerius of the Queen's Works of Art, 68; Mr Willie Duggan, rugby player, 49; Mr John Gross, writer and editor, 64; Mr Peter Casymphones, Garter to, Mr Volin Gross, writer and editor.

64: Mr Peter Gwynn-Jones, Garter Principal King of Arms, 59: Lord Hogg of Cumbernauld, 61; Mr Philip Jones, former Principal, Trinity College of Music, 71; Mr Anish Kapour, artist and sculptor. 45: Mr Anthony Loehnis, banker, 63; Mr David Mellor. QC, broadcaster and business adviser, 50; Miss Liza Minnelli, actress and singer, 53; Mr David Milinaric, inserior designer, 60; the Hon Roland Moyle, former MP, 71; Mr Patrick Procktor, painter, 63; Lord Rotherwick, 45: Mr James Taylor, singer, 51; Viscount Trenchard, 48; Mr Julian Treuherz, Keeper of Galleries for the National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside, 52; Miss Elizabeth Vaughan, mezo-soprano, 62: Lord Wallace of Saltaire, 58; Mr Paul Way, golfer, 36; His 58; Mr Paul Way, golfer, 36; His Honour Sir Frank White, 72; Mr David O. Williams, trade unionist.
73: Mr David Wilmot, Chief Constable, Greater Manchester, 56; Miss Googie Withers, actress, 82.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: John Aubrey, antiquary, Easton Pierse, Wiltshire, 1626; Thomas Ame, composer of Rule Britannia, London, 1710; Kemal Ataturk, 1st President of Turkey 1923-38, nika. 1881; Vaslav Nijinsky. ballet dancer and choreographer, Kiev, 1890: Jack Kerouac, novelist, Lowell, Massachusetts, 1922.

DEATHS: St Gregory, Pope 590-604, Rome, 604; Sun Yat-Sen, President of the Republic of China 1911-12, Peking, 1925; Anne Frank, diarist, Beisen concentration camp,

Forthcoming marriages

Mr A.J. Arkwright and Miss A. Robb The engagement is announced between Johnnie, eldest son of Mrs Arkwright and the late P.F. (Pup)

Arkwright, of Warwickshire, and Arabella, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Alistair Robb, of Somersel. Mr J.J.C. Blok and Miss L.E. Clark The engagement is announced between Jeremy, son of Mr and

Mrs Tony Blok, of Hookwood. Surrey, and Louise, daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Clark, of Felden, Hernel Hempstead, Hertfordshire. Mr J.R. Elliot

and Miss C.S.J. Tarling The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Keith Elliot, of Ampleforth. North Yorkshire, and Camilla. daughter of Mr and Mrs Nikolas Tarling, of Chelsea, London, SW3.

Mr J.A.S. Everett and Miss J. Burgess The engagement is announced between James, only son of Mr and Mrs Richard Everen, of Downham Market, Norfolk, and Jayne, second daughter of Mr and Mrs John Burgess, of Torrevieja,

Mr D.McG. Gilbertson and Miss N.J. Smith The engagement is announced between Douglas, son of Mr and Mrs Alan Gilbertson, of Lingfield, Surrey, and Nicola, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin Smith, of

Ford, Gloucestershire. Mr C.G.O. Keatinge and Miss Y. Wake the engagement is announced between Colin, younger son of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs Hugh Keatinge, of Wilsford-cum-Lake, Wittshire, and Yukie, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Kanji Wake, of Hiroshima, Japan.

Mr A.J. Napies and Miss Z.L.M. Punshou The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Mr and Mrs Dennis Napier of Windsor, Berkshire, and Zoë, daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Punshon, of

Mr K. Hare and Miss S. Chrysotomo The engagement took place on February 9, 1999, between Karl Hare, of Fleet, Hampshire, and Sophie Chrystomnou, of Cyprus. Mr C.H. Palmer and Countess Charlone von der Schulenburg The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr and Mrs Michael Palmer, of Whitchurch, Hampshire, and Charlotte, daughter of Friz, Graf von der Schulenburg, of London. and Mrs Shiela Peczenik. of

London-Mr P.J. Pennai and Miss J.E. Kemp The engagement is announced between Patrick, middle son of Mr and Mrs C.F. Pennal, of Maidstone, Kent, and Julie, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs C.S. Kemp, of East Grinstead, Sussex.

Dr P.M. Ranstorp and Miss C.N. Baring The engagement is announced between Magnus, son of Herr Per Ranstorp and Fru Ingrid Rudesjo. of Sweden, and Constance Nina. daughter of Colonel and Mrs Thomas Baring, of Westhay, Devon. Mr M.B. Robinson and Miss S.R.L. Cowell

and MISS S.K.L. Cowell
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr and Mrs Timothy Robinson, of Boston and Maine. USA, and Sophia, daughter of Mr and Mrs Adrian Cowell of Hatfield Peveral. Feson Cowell, of Hatfield Peverel. Essex. Mr L.F.C. Sinclair

and Miss A.R. Carison
The engagement is announced between Lindsay, son of Mr and Mrs Iain Sinclair, of North Mymms, Herdordshire, and Amelia, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Jeremy Carison, of Hackford, Norfolk. and Miss A.R. Carison

Mr J.S. Titford and Ms H. Flockton
The marriage will take place at
Shirland Parish Church, near Alfreton, Derbyshire, on Saturday, May I, between John Stuart, son of the late Mr and Mrs Sidney Titlord of Woodside Park, North Finchley, and Heather, daughter of the late Mr Roy Flockton and of Mrs Flockton, of Borrowash, Derby.

Crufts Show results

Gundog group

Britany, SH CH Foscott Hautain, Mr and
Mrs P Green, Northampton
German wirehead ponder: Kimmax Kool
Dode, Mr C Boniface, Bedingson, Wirral
Irish red and white setter: SH CH
Drumgarron Jewelled Crown of Castlefenny, Mrs E White, Wells, Somerset
Italian Spinson: Kevardim Afyna, Miss P
Longstaff, Sidmonth, Devon,
Retriever (curly coated): SH CH Gladrags
Jack The Lad, Mr and Mrs N Tidey,
Strewsbury, Shropshire. Strewsbury, Shropshire.
Spaniel [Irish water!, SH CH Zanfi Burning Bridges at Foulby, Mrs A Williams, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
Hungarian wate: SH CH Kazwal Kents, Mr M Armstrong, Carlisle, Cumbria.
Retriever (Chestopeake Bay): Armsc Bay Jessan, Mrs C Mayhew, Micharst, West Susster.

Jessam, Mrs C Mayhew, Midhurst, West Sussex.
Spaniel (American cocker): SH CH Kaplars Kritics Choice II of Cosaha, Mrs L Swigciski, Wellinborough, Northants.
Spaniel (field): SH CH Nadavin Elegance. Mr and Mrs C Holgane, Cohne Lames.
Weimaramer: SH CH Ansons Perdy, Mr G Haran, Lamarkshire.
English setter: Lindow Vision of Wonder, Mrs J Barber, Reddisch, Worcestershire.
German short-baired pointer: SH CH Barleyarch Faceallly, Mrs S Harris, Warringson, Cheshire.

Hungarian wire-haired vida: Lanspar Veros Monday

Verese, Mrs G Pearson, Bishop Auckland, County Durkart.
Large Munsterlander: CH Grydbeck Holeus, Mr & Hargreaves, Preson, Lance.
Spaniel (chumber): SH CH Trasufield To Horde, Mr & Mrs T Field.
Norwich, Norfolk.
Spaniel (cockert: Gleinbrows Rzinchoud, Mr T Harrison, Derby, Spaniel (Susses): SH CH Patchingall Chrissa, Chekustord Mrs C Minchell, Chekustord, Esser.
Retriever (flat-coated): Spera Sapphire Vivace, Mrs S De Robbio. Dumblane. Pertission.

stine. Retriever (golden) Lindjan Rivrate or Research (Rollen) Lindjan Rivrate or Research (Rollen) St. Ch. Carramer Retriever (Rollendon) St. Ch. Carramer Carmen Miranda, Mr. & Mrs. M. Reynolds. National Carmen (Rollendon) Noningham. Spaniel (English springer): SH CH Elimvek Earthbourd, Mr J Davidson, Kirkcaldy, File.

Fife.

Spaniel (Welsh springer): SH CH Northey.

Saver Camen from Zamberlan, Mrs J
Hopkins, Bary St Edmands, Suffolk.

Gordon setter: Floreth Am Grantach. Mr &
Mrs I Hill. Eastlothiam.

Irish setter: SH CH Caspians Intropad, Mrs
J Lorrimer, Bingley, West Yorkshire.

Fointer: SH CH Adsock Jacobne. Mrs K
MacDrosen Nortshire.

Further results from Crufts will appear in The Times on

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o not plot harm against your neighbour, who lives trustfully near you. Proverbs 3.29 (NIV).

BLAIR - On 9th March to Catherine (née Hyde) and Andrew, a beautiful daughter, Anna Caitlin, a sister for Ellie.

BIRTHS

BRUNETTE - On March 6th at The Portland Hospital, to Debbie and Ian, a GAZE - On 5th March at Royal Hampshire Hospital, Winchester to Letty (née Azis) and Christian, a

The Royal Free Hospital, to Susan (née Fitzpetrick) and Barry, a son, Hugo Christopher Horace, a brother for Oliver and

HANSLEY - On March 10th 1999 in Manchester, to David and Deborah (née sisty), a son, Matthew Maria and Brien of Urnston and Margaret and Jack of Saxilby. Cousin for Harvey, Theo and William.

HARRISON DALY - Oz Thursday February 11th at 7.05pm to Brenda (née Daly) and Mark, a son, Matthew Thomas. Welcome to the world. MACKENZIE - lein and

Linnie are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter Amy Madeleine, a sister for Rebecca, on March 10th 1999 in Hong

MORRIS - On 8th March in London, to Caroline (née Sykes; and James, a son, Toby Alun Ben, a brother for Max and Oliver. PEMBERTON-PIGOTT - On March 7th 1999 at The

Stirling Royal, to Kirsty (née Pitts) and Jeremy, a daughter, India May. REID - On Monday, March 8th, to Elizabeth (née

RICE - On March 6th at The Portland Hospital, to Derica and Robin, twin boya, Isaiah and Malachi, brothers for Solomon. RIVETT-CARNAC - On March 6th to Sarah (née Petrie)

SEFCHICK - On March 7th at The Portland Hospital, to Shawn and Michael, a daughter, Madeline Grace. DEATHS

MAMSON - Durham, formerly of Bow School. Peacefully in hospital on 11th March aged 87 years, Mary, widow of the late Charlie Ademson. Funeral at St Oswald's Church, Durham 12 30 nm.

BATES - J.H. (Joe). Beloved husband of Nancy and loving uncle and great-uncle, on 9th March peacefully at Trevision Lodge, Trebetherick, aged 38. Service of Thankshiving Frider 16th

88. Service of
Thanksgiving Friday 19th
March, St Minver Parish
Church 2.30 pm. Family
flowers only and no letters
plesse. Donations if
desired to St Francis
Home for Animals, Porth,
Newsons. Newquay.

BELL - Geoffrey Laurence died peacefully on February 28th 1999 at Our Lady's Hospica, Dublin, aged 83. Enquiries phone 01295 373639. Donations to Center Research. BRADBURY - Catherine, née

Sophie. Requiem Mass at the Church of the Secred Heart, Cobham, Surrey at 11.00am Friday 19th March followed by private interment at Cobham Cemetery. Family flowers only please.

Keefe Suddenly in Cheimsford, Essex. Beloved wife to the late Jim Bradbury and step-mother to Peter. Adored granny to Chice and Sophie. Requiem Mass at the Church of the Sacrad

Durham, 12.30 pm Thursday 18th March. BADOELEY - Alian Beresford, on March 10th 1999 in bis 90th year, pescefully at home. Beloved bushand of Rousen and father of Rozanne, Paul and John. Pamily flowers only. Donations to The Red Cross. Enquiries, E White & Son 01823 272183.

& Son 01823 272183.

BASLEY - David, Naval
Architect (NPL & BMT),
lifelong Portsmouth F.C.
and Hampshire C.C.
supporter, peacefully at
Weybridge Hospital on 6th
March 1999. Gorgeous old
chap, much loved and
missed by his wife Audrey,
daughters Ruth and
Imogeo, sister Evs., Irlends
and extended family.
Funeral at 3.00pm on
Fridsy 19th March 1999 at
St Mary's Church, Waltonon-Thames. Family
flowers only. Donations, if
desired, to nominated
family charities c/o FW
Chitty, 26 Brassey House,
New Zealand Avenue,
Walton-on-Thames,
Surrey KT12 1QD.
Enquiries 01932 254255.

BATES - J.H. (Joe). Beloved

BUTCHART - Michael
Deaholm Leonard aged 59
peacefully on March 11th
1999. Beloved husband of
Jenny, much loved father
of Andrew, Charlotte and James, son of Joan and brother of Virginia. Funeral at St Mary's and St Nicholas, Leatherhead

St Nicholas, Leatherhead, Surrey at 3 pm on March 18th. Family flowers only please but donations if desired to Royal Marsden Hospital, Sutton. Enquiries to Hawkins & Sons (01372) 372435. CROSS - Nesta Rosamuno

GROSS - Nesta Rosamund
(formerly Bromley-Martin,
née Bevanl, sged 87,
peacefully on March 6th.
Beloved wife of the late
Graham, much loved
mother of Christopher,
Joenna and the late Sally
and step-mother of Rogar,
Trevor and the late Nell,
devoted grandmother and
groat-grandmother.
Family burial. Requiem
Mass at 2.00pen on
Thesday March 16th at St.
Joseph's Catholic Church,
Bishops Stortford. Family
flowers only, but
donations if desired to
Cheshire Homes, c/o
Cordon Barber Franeral
Home, 317 Aylaham Road,
Norwich NRS 24B.
ELVERSON - Robin, on March ELVERSON - Robin, on March 7th in Houston, Texas.

7th in Houston, Texas.
GARLAND - Sidney Leonard
Gattrall MC: on 8th March
at home in Guildford,
suddenly, aged 83. Beloved
husband of lean,
Transpors will be sorely
missed by seventeen
grandchildren and all his
extended family. Oulet grandchildren and all his extended family. Quiet family cremation. A Thanksgiving Service will be held at Holy Trinity Church, Guildierd, on Sanday April 11th at 2pm to which friends are warmly welcome. Family flowers only. Donations if preferred to National Advertising Benevolent Society, 32 Wigmore Street, London Wilt 9DF. GEDDES - Constance Mary

Street, London WiH 9DF.
GEDDES - Constance Mary
(Kit), on 10th March 1999,
suddenly but peecefully at
St Ceorge's Hospital,
Tooting, following a road
accident, widow of Lt. Col.
James Geddes R. A. and
mother of Gordon.
Andrew, and Bruce.
Requiem at St Thomas
Aquinas Church, Ham
Common, 11.30, followed
by cramation at Mortlake
Crematorium, 13.00, on
Tuesday 16th March.
Family flowers only,
donations if wished to
Princess Alice Hospice,
Westend Lane, Esher.

GLANVALE - Maynooth, Eire. March 3rd 1999, Michael Paul, Surg Cdr RN (rtd). Husband of Patricle and father of Teress.

GOLD - Elleen (née Mitcheil)
SRN CMB OND died on
11th March. Beloved wile
of Eddie and wonderful
mother of Neil. Funeral
Service at the Church of St
Peter and St Paul, Westonin-Gordano, Somerset on
Thursday, 18th March at
2 pm. Flowers if wished to
F.H. Hallidsy & Son, 115
High Street, Portishead.

GRIFFITHS - Joseph
Reginsid. Reg Criffiths,
dearly loved by all his
family and friends, died at
8.50 am in Falkirk Royal
infirmary on 5th March
1959 age 84 years. He had
suffered a stroke and had
not up a strong displied suffered a stroke and had put up a strong dignified light to regain his health before suffering a final sethack. Beloved husband to Agnes, much loved father to Anne and Roger and caring grandisther to Sophie and Lucy. He was a warm, kind, loyous man who will be dearly missed. His funeral took place at 9,30 am 10th March 1999 at Tullialian and Kincardine Parish Church and thereafter at Falkirk Crematorium.

HERDRE - On March 9th peacefully in his sleep Ismes Ism, beloved husband of Doris, devoted father to Meriel and Paul and a much layed grandfather to Lucy and Barney. Funeral at Randalls Park Cramsterium. Randalls Park
Crematerium,
Lentherbeed, Wednesday
March 17th at 3 pm.
Family flowers only
please. Donations if
desired to Parkinson's
Disesse Society c/o F.W.
Paine. 108 High Street,
Esher, Surrey KT10 9QI.

CERNICTON - Jes Margaret on March 9th, widow of Sydney, peacefully at home. Funeral at Letheringsett Church March 16th at 2.30pm. Enquiries to Peter Taylor Funeral Service, Holt, Norfolk. Tel: (01263) 711902

Middlesex on Sunday 7th March 1999 aged 68 years. Dearly loved husband of Libby and loving father of Karen, Alison and Lucy. Dear brother of Jean and Pamela. A much loved grandfather and uncle. Chairman of D.G. Jones and Partnera. Sadly missed by family, friends and colleagues. Memorial service at York House. and colleagues. Memor service at York House, Twickenham on Thursday 18th March at 4 pm. Ali welcome. Flowers and enquiries to F.W. Paine, Twickenham, tel: 0181 892

LARD - Peacafully on 11th
March 1999 at the Western
General Hospital,
Edinburgh, after a long
struggle against illness,
Michael Donald Laird
O.B.E. A much loved man,
dear brother, husband and
father, proud grandfather
of Freys, Hector, Tam and
Matilds. Funeral at
Mortonhall Crematorium,
Edinburgh, Main Chapel
on Thuraday 18th March
at 11.00am at which all
friends are welcome. A
book of condolence will be
available, no cards or
letters please. Any evaluate, and certis or latters please. Any donations would be welcomed by the Diabetic Research Fund at Western General Hospital, Crawe Road South, Edinburgh.

LEGGATE - James R. DSO of Burton-in-Wirval, Cheshire, 10th March 1999, aged 85 years. Much loved huxband of Jean and loving father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Service and interment at St Nicholas Church, Burton-in-Wirval on Wednesday 17th March at 12 noon, Family flowers wechescay i'rm staren at 12 noon. Family flowers only please, but donations in lieu may be sent for The Stroke Association (Prenton) c/o Charles Stephens Funeral Directors, Clifton House, 215 Rebington Road Rock 215 Bebington Road, Rock Ferry, Wirral L42 4QA, Tel 0151 645 4396.

LOCKVER - Francis Harding peacefully at home on 8th March, aged 88. Beloved husband of Hermione and father of Barnaby, Jolyon and Romilly. Thanksgiving service at noon Thursday 18th March, St Leurence Church, Seale, If wished donations to The National Kidney Research Fund, Huntingdon, Enquiries to 01252 711444.

JONES - Donaid George died suddenly but pescefully at Ashford Hospital Middlesez on Sunday 7th Sth March aged \$3. Only MACLEOD - Margaret of Hopping Lane, Canombury, peacefully on 5th March aged 93. Only daughter of the late Sir Norman and Lady Macleod and dear sunt of Brigid and great-aunt of Brooke. Funeral Tuesday 16th March, Golders Green East Chapel, Hoop Lane, NW11 at 3.15 pm. Enquiries to William Beckett Funeral Directors of 29 Junction Road, N19, tei: (0171) 272-4114.

tel: (0171) 272-4114. MONCKTON - Anthony MONCKTON - Anthony Neison, pessed sway in Keto Pephos, Cyprus, on Tuesday March 9th, Burial will take pisce at Dhekelia British Military Cemetery on Tuesday March 16th. A Memorial Service in England will be announced at a later data.

MICKSON - John, on 10th
March, peacefully at
Chipping Norton. Devoted
husband of the late Pam,
loving lather of Simon,
Jeremy and Ceci, and
adored grandisther.
Wonderfully cared for at
Southerndown Nursing
Home. Fumeral service to
be held at St Nicholas,
Chadlington, Oxfordsigire
at 11.30 am on Saturday
20th March. Family
flowers only but donations
to The Injured Jockeys'
Pund c/o Didcock Funeral
Service, Cemetary Lodge,
Chipping Norton, Oxon
OX7 5XS.

PEACOCK - Frederick George
Pat" on 9th March
peacafully at St Thomas'
Hospital, aged 30 years.
Beloved husband of the
inte Evelys. Formerly
Deputy Chairman of the
Cariton Club, a Past
Master of the Worshipful
Company of Fietchers and
a former Justice of the
Peace. Funeral Service at
2.30pm on Monday 22nd
March at the South
London Cremstorium,
Rowan Road, London
SW16. No flowers please,
but if desired, donations to
Louizacmia Research
Fund, 43 Great Ormond
SIJ.

To place death notices, acknowledgements or notices please call 0171 680 6880

RicHARDS - Suddenly on 8th March 1999, of Doigellau, Gwynedd, aged 78 years. Lt Cdr R.N. (Retired) VL Lt Cdr R.N. (Retired) VI.
J.P. Richard Meredyth
(Nick), beloved husband of
Pamela, a dear father and
grandfather. Funeral
aervice for family and the
local community only at St
Mark's Church, Brithdir
os Monday, 15th March at
2.30pm. No flowers.
Donations in lieu
gratefully received

gratefully received towards the R.N.L.L (Local Branch) c/o Glyn Rees & Son, Funeral Rees & Soll, Funeral Directors, Dinas Mawddwy, Machynileth, Powya, SY20 9JD. Tel: 01650 531240 or Dolgellan Tel: 01341 422322.

ROBERTSON - James
Simpson of Clanfield,
Oxon on March 10th 1999.
Hosband of Mangery,
father of Liz, John and
Kath. Funeral service at
Oxford Crematorium on
Thursday 18th March at 12
noon. No flowers.
Donstions for the Pain
Relief Clinic at the
Churchili Hospital, c/o E
Taylor & Son. 21 Corbett
Road, Carterton, Oxon
OX18 3LG.

SHEPPARD - Monique
Helene, died peacefully at
Trinity Hospice March 7th
1999; much loved wife of
Wing Commander R.F.
Sheppard, beloved mother
of Patricla, Francesca and
John, mother-in-law of John, mother-in-law of Jerry and David and men of Dominique, Danielle, John, Jason, Michael and Hazel. Cremated in private. Donations if desired to Trinity Respice London SW4 ORN.

SHERIFFE - Peacefully at her home in Luicestershire on March 11th 1999 Monica aged 95 years. A much loved and respected friend. Cremation private. Mamorial Service will be held at Goadby Marwood Church on Tuesday 16th March at Noon. Donations to her memory for The

SHELDS – Lorna (née Margatroyd) on March 10th peacefully at Dorking aged 85. Wife of the late Major General Romie Shields and dear mother of Robert and Jane.

TARKOWSU - Janek
Wojcelech pessed away
peacefully at home on
March 5th 1999 aged 58
after a bravely fought
illness. He will be sadly
missed by his loving wife
Linds, devoted sons Jan 16
and Marek 14, family and
many friends. The funeral
service will take place et
Brompton Cratory on
March 17th at 11 am,
burial at Gumnersbury
Cemetery 1 pm to which
all his friends are
respectfully invited.
Flowers and enquiries to
W.S. Bond on: 0181 994
0277.

W.S. Bond on: 0181 994
0277.

TURNER - Joan. On 9th
March 1999 at Sutton Veny
House Nursing Home in
her 90th year. Wife of the
late Bruce Turner and
mother of Thomas and
Jane. Funeral Service at
All Saints Church, Sotton
Mandeville on Fridey 19th
March at 2.30 pm. Flowers
welcome or donations if
desired to R.S.P.B. c/c F.
Curtis and Son, 11
Portway, Warminster,
Wilts. BA12 8QC.

TUSON - Shelia Mary peacefully on Monday 8th
March 1999. After a long
illness bravely borne.
Beloved wife of Tony and
much loved by family and
friends. Service and
cremation at Putney Vale
Crematorium at 2.30 pm
on Wednesday 17th Merch.
Family flowers only
please.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

LINDGREN - A service of celebration for the life of Mark Lindgren will be held in the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban at 2.30pm on Friday 19th March 1999. All family, friends, acquaintences and collesques are servicence. friends, acquaintances and colleagues are welcome. Family flowers only, but donations, if desired, for the Mark Lindgren Memorial Pund should be sent to: Boodle Hatfield EJH/PES, Solicitors, 61 Brook Street, London W1Y 281.

WAR NORFSON - Commander Charles Graham Thompson RN, reported missing 12th March 1943.

IN MEMORIAM

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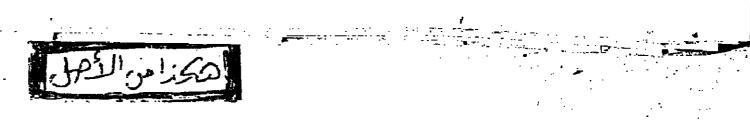
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Brief.

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OBITUARIES

Sidney Gottlieb, CIA scientist, died on March 7 aged 80. He was born on August 3, 1918.

Churchill spoke of a world "made darker by the dark lights of perverted science" he was referring to the revolting experiments conducted on human beings by Nazi doctors in the concentration camps. But his remarks might with equal justice have been applied to the activities of the CIA's Sidney Gottlieb, who used LSD and other mind-controlling drugs on a host of unwitting subjects in the quest for a formula for winning the Cold War without recourse to

arms. Over a period of twenty years from the 1950s to the 1970s mental patients, prisoners, drug addicts, prostitutes, the clients of prostitutes and even the agency's own employmented on with drugs. At least

one "participant" in these tests died. Others went insane or suffered other forms of irre-versible psychological damage. Indeed, what Gottlieb and his CIA henchmen did was only in degree different from the activities which had sent a number of Nazi scientists to the gallows at Nuremberg in 1946.

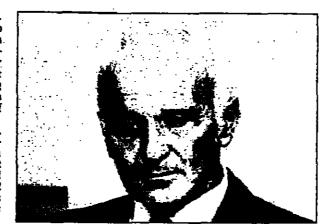
The ghastliness of the CIA experiment is, perhaps, miti-gated only by the fact that in the end it rebounded on the agency and its paranoid leadership. For by introducing America to lysergic acid diethy lamide as one of the main planks of his programme. Gottlieb created the LSD generation: quietist, pacifist, antiauthoritarian and, above all, violently anti-Vietnam War. And the supreme irony of his programme was that the American armies which fought that conflict were in a substantial degree undermined by the very drugs with which Gottlieb had intended

to brainwash America's ene-

mies and break their morale. As the Russians were to discover a generation later in Afghanistan, it is a characterisne of "no-win" wars fought for dubious ideological aims that they tend to expose young soldiers to drug abuse as an escape from the horrors of their situation.

The mind-altering drugs. which also included marijuana and mescal, were never in fart used to any effect against important Soviet targets. And at his retirement in 1972 Gottlieb was to dismiss his entire effort for the CIA as However, drugs were not

Gottlieb's only weapon against the CIA's enemies. He was also involved in assassination plots which at this distance read like something out of a Jacobean revenge play. Thus, there was to be a poisoned handkerchief to kill the Iraqi military dictator. General Kassem. Toxic gifts were to be offered to the Cuban leader, Fidel Castro.



SIDNEY GOTTLIEB

Gottlieb in 1977 after he had retired from the CIA

An assassination kit, complete with needles, rubber gloves, gauze masks and lethal biological materials, was designed to make away with Congo's Prime Minister, Patrice Lumumba. None of these plots achieved its aim; the Congolese opposition to Lumumba killed him before the agency could execute its plan.

Another imaginative idea masterminded by Gottlieb was a series of CIA brothels. set up in San Francisco in the 1960s and operated for eight years. The idea was that a cross-section of the American people from all social levels might be lured into these houses where prostitutes would slip them drugs, after

which, through two-way mirrors. ClA agents would observe their behaviour. Decor and mood were created with scrupulous care. Bedrooms had sultry crimson soft furnishings and their walls were tastefully adorned with reproductions of Toulouse Lautrec paintings and posters. But although hundreds of unsuspecting punters were drugged during this period it was never at all clear what benefit to American security was yielded by this fantastic and voyeuris-

Gottlieb was the son of Jewish immigrants from Hun-gary. He himself was to flirt with almost every religion. He took a degree in chemistry at the University of Wisconsin and a doctorate in biochemistry at the California Institute of Technology. A club foot kept him out of the war but he got his chance to serve his country in 1951 when he joined the

nic idea.

Within two years he was made head of the CIA's technical services division and put in Subsequently John charge of the newly-estab-lished department MKUltra. Its remit was to develop mind-controlling drugs for use against the Soviet bloc. Gottlieb discovered LSD ear-

ly on. Apart from administering it to others he was an enthusiastic recreational user himself, going on hundreds of acid "trips" during his years with the CIA. After his retirement from the agency he was awarded the Distinguished Intelligence Medal for his patriotic services — but the CIA was careful to destroy most of the records of the work

MKUltra had done. Nevertheless, in the mid-1970s his name emerged into the public domain when he was asked to testify before a Senate committee which was investigating the extent of the CIA's secret experiments. Although his appeal to the committee to have his name taken out of its report was granted, newspapers had al-ready disclosed his identity.

Marks's book The Search for the 'Manchurian Candidate': The CIA and Mind Control (1979), gave a full account of MKUltra's activities, coming to the simultaneous conclusions that Gottlieb was "unquestionably a patriot", but that his work "clearly violated the Nuremberg standards".

After retiring from the CIA, Gottlieb turned his back on his destructive past and devoted himself to healing. With his wife Margaret, who was a missionary's daughter, he ran a leprosy hospital in northern India for 18 months. On their return to the US the couple bought a small farm in northern Virginia, near the Blue Ridge Mountains. There they lived quietly, indulging themselves in their twin pastimes of folk dancing and gozt herding. Latterly they had both worked in a hospice, tending

the terminally ill. Sidney Gottlieb is survived by Margaret, and by two sons and two daughters.

RAY BROCK

Ray Brock, MBE, wine maker, chemist businessman and racing driver, died on February 14 aged 91. He was born on August 19, 1907.

RAY BROCK was a research chemist who helped in the development of colour film, ione of the fathers of the modern British wine industry, and a man with a passion for speed. He brought irrepres-sible energy to all his enterprises, some of it anarchically misdirected.

Raymond Barrington Brock was educated at Easthourne College and London University, where he took a degree in chemistry and physics. In recognition of his various research projects, he was later made a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chemistry.

Between the wars his love affair with speed and things mechanical was nurtured by racing motorcycles at Brooklands. He was also offered the use of a works Levis to ride in the Uister TT. He was not sure how to get it to Northern Ireland until his cousin offered the use of his Delage car. The two of them then managed to strap the Levis to the front mudguard, and despite raised police eyebrows they drove all the way, peering through the

During the General Strike he drove a London bus, and in 1931 he won himself flying lessons as first prize in a competition run by Tatler. Heduly qualified as a private pilot in 1932. He also shot at Bisley,

1

... PER



Ray Brock in unusually stately mode, driving the Cannstadt Daimler at Beaulieu

and commentated at Brooklands, Crystal Palace and Donnington. In what time he could spare from these hobbies, he worked as a research chemist in the photographic industry, with the Imperial Dry Plate Company, Ilford Photographic and Dulaycolour. During the war he was

Chief Air Raid Warden for the was appointed MBE and made a Preeman of the City. But living in Croydon during the Blitz proved dangerous, and when Brock and his wife lost the roof of their house in 1941, they moved to Oxted.

Missing the delights of imported fruits during rationing. Brock decided to try growing peaches (against purpose-built walls) and table grapes (under special glass cloches which he helped to develop). Investigat-ing vine varieties, he discovered several that were suitable only for wine, so he planted a wine vineyard and appealed to the Royal Horticultural Society members to send him

cuttings. He also sought varieties from France and Germany, just months after the war. As his meticulous garden diaries show, the first experimental vines were planted out

in March 1946 and, aided by a full-time gardener, Brock es-tablished what was initially called the Beebrock Vineyard and later became the Oxted Viticultural Research Station. For almost 30 years and at his own expense, he worked at this, almost inadvertently laying the foundations for what is now a 2,250-acre industry.

More than 600 differ

cultivars of vines were given trials for suitability; accurate records were kept of the sugar and acid levels and the ripening dates achieved, and this data was assembled and published in four little books. On a

PUBLIC NOTICES

strictly non-commercial basis. he also made wines - red and white, still and sparkling and in latter years experimented with distillation, producing extremely palatable brandy.

Together with The Grape Vine in England by Edward Hyams, Brock's booklets prompted Major-General Sir Guy Salisbury-Jones to plant the first modern British vineyard at Hambledon in 1951. This was followed by Jack Ward's Horam Manor vineyard in 1953 (using cuttings from Oxted) and Gore-Browne's Beaulieu in 1958. These became the backbone of the fledgeling English wine industry.

Brock was by now a director of Townson & Mercer Ltd, a firm of scientific instrument makers, and he became president of the Scientific Instrument Makers Association in 1957. But he was also involved in motor racing in the early postwar period, holding the lap record at Goodwood for a sports car of up to two litres in 1948. He twice drove an HRG sports car in the Spa 24-hours race, and having designed and built his own streamlined body for the car, he was third in his class in 1948 and second in 1949.

Brock subsequently abandoned track racing for Swiss hill-climbs, firstly in a special Healey, again designed and built by himself, and then in a works Jowett Javelin. This inspired him to build a complete car to his own design with a Javelin engine which was to be capable of 100 mph and 50 mpg. The resulting rear-engined coupé was extremely advanced for the time.

At the age of 50 he tried the Cresta run and was co-opted into the British bobsleigh team as brakeman, but he lost his enthusiasm for that abruptly erie Street when they had a bad crash and he broke several ribs. He also took up yachting, designing a number of fittings. particularly related to the engine for the yachts he acquired. He went on to design and construct a steam launch, Silencia, on which he often took friends of all ages for Sunday picnics. Being somewhat jerry-built, the vessel's fuel pipe was wont to burst, at

swat out the flames. His later business interests included owning a colour printing works, a Renault franchise and a computer firm, when computers were still in their infancy. He maintained his interest in cars into his eighties, and was instrumental in the recommissioning of the National Motor Museum's 1898 Cannstadt Daimier. Subsequently — "to keep my mind active" — he helped to restore a number of classic vehicles. His last venture, still to be completed, is a steam cycle car.

which Brock would produce a

disreputable handkerchief and

He married Rosemary Spicer in 1933, and she survives him. There are no children.

TOM BAISTOW

Tom Baistow journalist, died on March 8 aged 84. He was born on July 13, 1914.

TOM BAISTOW was an allround journalist of the old school. For more than a decade he was deputy editor of the New Statesman, but that was merely the culmination of a long and varied newspaper career.

Enoch Thomas Baistow was

born in Glasgow and educated in his native Scotland, though part of his childhood was spent in western Canada. He left school at the age of 14 to become a copyboy on the Scottish Daily Express, where his father worked as a compositor. Resolving early on that he wanted to be on the editorial side of the paper, he started writing captions for photographs, subbing "shorts" and making himself generally useful in the newsroom. By the age of 17 he had moved to Manchester to become the "splash sub" on the old Daily Sketch and a few years later he transferred to the News

sioned into the Royal Tank Regiment, seeing action as a tank commander in North Africa, Normandy (where he on D-Der Holland and Germany. Though he returned to his old iob on the News Chronicle in Manchester, he was restive at first and thought of emigrating to Israel, where his wife, whom he had married in 1938. had family connections. Instead, however, he accepted a job as deputy features editor of the News Chronicle at its London headquarters in Bouv-

He spent the next dozen years on that paper, being successively features editor and then foreign editor, abandoning ship only when the News Chronicle was scuttled

by the Cadbury family in October 1960. He was father of the journalists' chapel at the time and fought hard to secure the best deal he could for all those who were thrown out of work so abruptly (the paper was still selling a million copies a day at the time it was closed down along with its stablemate, the London evening paper, the Star).

Baistow had many close friends in Bouverie Street. including the columnist James Carneron, the diplomatic correspondent William Forrest, and, perhaps above all, the cartoonist, Vicky, who killed himself in 1966.

Chronicle as its northern picture editor. In the war he was commis-

> Throughout his career Baistow had shopped on the left-hand side of the street, so it forced next move was to the old TUC paper, the Daily Herald, where he became a special feature writer. In 1964 the Herald was transmogrified into the Hugh Cudlipp Sun, and as an old-fashioned socialist (indeed, in the 1930s, an undercover member of the Communist Party) Baistow never felt entirely at home on the only paper to be "born in

the age in which we live". Accordingly, in 1965 he accepted with alacrity an invitation from Paul Johnson to join the staff of the New Statesman, which was then selling more than 90,000 cop-

solicitor.

ies a week and at the peak of its circulation success. Very soon he was appointed deputy editor and, in production terms, became the kingpin of the entire enterprise. He also wrote a highly respected press column of his own (at first under the pseudonym Mag-nus Turnstile). He was a neat writer, and it was perhaps a pity that his preoccupation each week with bringing the paper out meant that only occasionally did he get the

chance of deploying his liter-ary talents to the full. He worked at the Statesman for three successive editors, Paul Johnson, Richard Crossman and Anthony Howard, and served as acting editor for substantial periods when the first two were absent through ill-health. He never tried to become editor himself,

> sage counsellor He left in 1976, taking a job as press officer (and part-time lecturer) at the new School of Journalism at City University, as well as writing a press commentary for The Guardian and broadcasting frequently, notably on LBC. In 1985 he produced an excellent and concise guide to modern newspaper history entitled Fourth-Rate Estate, and from his favourite vantage point at the Savile Club

being content with the role of

what was going on in the world of communications. For all his left-wine leanings he had a highly pragmatic streak, which led to his placarding his Orpington home with Labour posters during at least three general elections before going off quietly to vote Liberal as the only effective way to keep out the Tory. To his younger, more romantic colleagues, he was never anything but a shrewd exemplar

He leaves his widow. Mae. to whom he had been married for 60 years, and their son and

of commonsense.

PERSONAL COLUMN

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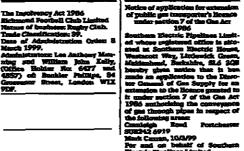
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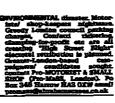
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LEGAL NOTICES

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CECIL MORLEY

Cecil Morley, CBE, former Secretary-General of the Stock Exchange, died on February 14 aged 87. He was born on May 20, 1911.

WHEN Cecil Morley joined the Stock Exchange, its role was simply to enable investors to buy or sell shares and companies to raise capital. The value of an investment depended on the rate of return and security of the capital, but the process of investment was slow. As a result, new procedures

were adopted to produce quick settlements, an effect of which is that today's violent fluctuations in prices show little relation to investment value. Morley felt that he had spent 22 years refitting the Ark.

Cecil Denis Morley was born in Pembrokeshire. He was educated at Clifton College and Trinity College, Cambridge, where he read law. and in 1935 he qualified as a

He then joined the staff of

the Stock Exchange, assisting in the share and loan department, which was responsible for the admission of companies to the London market. In 1938 Morley joined the Territorial Army, and throughout the war he was employed on anti-aircraft operations, rising to the rank of major.

In 1949 he was appointed Secretary of the Stock Exchange, which was embarking on a modernisation programme. The first improvement was in public relations and hospitality. The next step involved the creation of a compensation fund to protect clients. This in turn led to the supervision of member firms' accounts, and finally to the examination of candidates for membership. The first steps were also taken for the rebuilding of the Stock Exchange and for the settlement of dealings

by mechanical means. in all of these operations Morley was much engaged. He became Secretary-General of the Stock Exchange in 1965, and was appointed CBE in 1967. He retired in 1971. In 1936 he married Lily

Florence Younge. She died in 1992, but he is survived by

FRENCH PAPERS

PARIS, March 5.

IT IS said, that on the occasion of the Empress's lying in, sums of money will be distributed to pay the child-bed expenses of poor parents, and to redeem effects pawned at the Mont de Pieté. The acts of munificence of the same kind, ordered upon the announcing of the Empress's pregnancy, had for their object the relief of a great many poor inhabitants of Paris. Relief was administered at their houses to 2,166; the child-bed expenses of 2,062 families were defrayed; the sums received by 14,401 debtors of the Mont de Pieté were repaid; and the effects given in pawn have been restored to those who deposited

The small apartments looking into the Palace-court of the Tuilleries, which were lately occupied by the Grand Marshal, have been united to the apartments of the Empress. and will be occupied by the infant on its birth, and by the persons attached to its service.

We are assured, that at the moment so impatiently expected by all the French, and which must crown their dearest wishes, the birth of a Prince will be announced by 101 discharges of cannon, and the birth of a girl by 21. These salutes will be repeated by the

ON THIS DAY

March 12, 1811 类型的动性

This column of assorted news from France was culled from the French papers, some of it several weeks old to judge by the datelines. The Monts de Pieté were charitable pawnshops.

artillery of all the fortresses of France and all the ports, of the vessels in the roads, and all places abroad occupied by the armies . . .

The privateer the Duke of Dantzic, which sailed from the river of Nanz on the 8th of October, 1810, entered it on the 26th of February. On the 20th of November it captured, in the Sombrero passage, the English brig Ceres, from Martinique, which was recaptured off the river of Bourdeaux. On the 3rd of December it took, on the same station, the English brig Bonetts, from Guadaloupe, with colonial produce. It also

took off the entrance of the gulf of Mexico, the American brig Canton, bound to Liverpool, laden with 1,275 bags of cotton. In the same latitude it took the English brig Jane, from Savannah to Liverpool, with 700 bags of In the course of its cruise it sunk a number

of other ships of no value. This privateer was often chased by frigates and corvettes in different latitudes, and experienced five storms. In the last, on the 5th of February, it was obliged to throw its guns overboard. CHERBOURG, Feb 23

The English sloop Tryal, of Weymouth, of about 20 tons, today emered this port, captured by the privateers Loup Marin and l'Epervier. This vessel was in ballast.

L'ORIENT, Feb 23 An English prize, named the Pelteisses, was wrecked on the 16th instant, on the coast of Belleisle; her lading consisted of conon, peluy, Campeachy wood, acajou, and guyac. The greater part of her cargo is expected to be

Thirteen French sailors on board the prize were saved, together with 3 English prisoners. The Pelteisses was about 200 tons, and was on her voyage from Providence Island to London. when she was captured by the privateer Rodeur of Bordeaux.

NEWS

Euro up as Lafontaine goes

■ Europe was plunged into confusion as the German Finance Minister Oskar Lafontaine resigned after a fierce cabinet row with the Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder. The news of the departure of a man decried by The Sun as "the most dangerous man in Europe" was greeted with barely concealed glee in Downing Street and on international markets. Herr Lafontaine, only a few months in office, had made himself into Britain's bugbear by pushing hard for tax harmonisation.... ... Pages 1, 15

Al Fayed brother wins passport

■ The brother of Mohamed Al Fayed won his six-year battle to get a UK passport, opening the way for the Harrods chairman himself. In giving his brother, Ali Fayed, his passport, Mr Straw ruled that a government report branding the brothers as liars was no longer relevant to the applications....... Pages 1, 5

Oldest ancestor

Fossil hunters revealed the skull of what they said could be mammals' earliest ancestor: a creature which lived 250 million years ago beside an inland sea in what is now South Africa.....

Farm subsidy row The European Union settled the

outline of a radical reform tofarm subsidies but Britain and France said that the deal needed more ..Pages I, I3 **Schools turmoil**

The first privatisation of an educa-

tion authority moved a step closer with the resignation of the Chief Executive of Hackney, in East

Paedophile inquiry

Detectives have reopened their inquiries into the deaths of two children after 29 years to see if they were the victims of paedophiles. Police have exhumed the body of an II-year-old girl

Clegg is cleared

Paratrooper Lee Clegg was acquitted of the 1990 murder of a Belfast joyrider despite being branded a liar by the judge... Page 6

Wembley result

Wembley Stadium was sold for £103 million to a consortium backed by the Football Association. The ground will be demolished and rebuilt... Page 8

troduced ten years ago Page 11 Peers rebellion

Hereditary peers have received an extraordinary call to rise up in rebellion against the Bill which would expel them from the House

Goodbye Argentina

The Prince of Wales left Argentina with the feeling that he

had become a pawn in the coun-

try's internal politics as it moves

towards an I election......Page 9

Routine breast cancer screening

in Britain is now as good as the

high standards reached in the

clinical trials that led to it being in-

Cancer screening

Doctor guilty

An anaesthetistwho has been pilloried in Zimbabwe as a latterday version of Josef Mengele had his conviction for causing the deaths of two children confirmed by the Supreme Court Page 17

Guatemala apology

President Clinton has apologised for a dark and long-buried episode of America's foreign policy: its support for right-wing govern-ments in Guatemala......Page 18

Clinton doubts

With Monica Lewinsky refusing to leave the headlines and accusations about past infidelities, President Clinton's marriage was reported to be under strain Page 19

Close your eyes and think of Kubrick

■ The first scenes from Eves Wide Shut, the final film made by Stanley Kubrick, were released and promptly judged too explicit to be shown on television. Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman are seen having sex in front of a mirror in the 90-second trailer that the film director made to show to cinema owners. The movie has been almost three years in the making...



BUSINESS

.... Page 27

..... Page 30

M&G bid: Prudential, the UK's biggest insurance company launched an agreed bid for the fund manager, after a year of talks...... Page 27 Euro gains: The euro staged a remarkable recovery as markets reacted with undisguised glee to the news that Oskar Lafontaine had re-

Mirror report: The Government is coming under pressure to publish a potentially explosive report into the 1991 flotation of Mirror Group Newspapers, after the High Court ruled that investigations of Kevin Maxwell are unfair......Page 27 Markets: The FTSE 100 rose 94.20 to 6335.7. The pound fell 0.07 cents

to \$1.6265 but rose 0.72p against the

euro to 66.60p. The g index rose to

103.5 from 102.7...

SPORT

Football: The Premier League chief executive, Peter Leaver, and chairman, Sir John Quinton, resigned in the wake of controversy about the award of television consultancy con-.. Page 52

Boxing: The World Boxing Council is not happy with the appointment of Arthur Mercante Jr as referee for the bout between Lennox Lewis and Evander Holyfield...... Page 52 Rugby union: Four players and six administrative staff have been released by Richmond in a first wave of redundancies aimed at cutting . Page 49

Gotf: Mark James, the Europe Ryder Cup captain, had a first-round 67 to put himself in joint second place with 11 others in the Turespaña Masters.

Starting in

The Saturday Times

Tomorrow

New racing

correspondent

Alan Lee

takes up the

reins

Plus:

Armchair Investor

Bad sports: "London seems destined to play reluctant host to one public-building fiasco every decade, doesn't it?" Richard Morrison on the Battle of Wembley... Page 35 On stage: In London Amanda Harris takes on a role Cocteau originally wrote for Edith Piaf; and Hugh Leonard's new play opens in Dub-

Foot-tappers: The choreographer Richard Alston brings his dance company to the South Bank as part of a national tour that underlines his importance. Friday pop: David Sinclair reviews the new albums by Blur and Beth Orton among others and assesses the threat to record sales posed by fans downloading from the Inter-

Menacing: "There is a peculiar air of menace - militancy even about the build-up to March 14."

..Page 20 Separate development: A year after appearing in a documentary about parenthood the model Betti Romani and her partner Sebastian Vince still live apart Page 21 Joe Joseph: Tried Harold Pinter's bolognese sauce or Noel Coward's pancakes? How great writers cook the books. .. Page 21

Mother's Day bothers Jane Shil-

Troubled tales: People affected by the Troubles are telling their stories on Radio Ulster....Page 38 Moneyspinner: What will be the next coup by Claudia Rosencrantz who brought us Who Wants to Be a

Testing: A preview of the new national curriculum tests for ages 7 ..Page 42

Over-studied: Some students are spending more time studying than is good for their results Page 43

It is a bad time for Congress to debate whether the US should send troops to help police any peace reached in Kosovo. But there is no better time left

RADIO & TV

Previous: Comic Relief: The fun starts with Lenny Henry and Denise van Outen (BBC!, 7pm) Review: Paul Hoggart finds the most expensive object in history __ Pages 50.51

-OPTROM

Kingmaker's head Lafontaine stunned all Germany

by resigning from his post as Finance Minister and leader of the Social Democrats. But he is unlikely to remain a quiet ghost......Page 23 The CAP still grows

Yesterday's stitched-together bargain on the reform of common agricultural policy will neither solve the EU's immediate budgetary problems nor meet the challenges of EU enlargement.....

Dinner plate battle

As Prince Charles tucks in Uruguay may take pride that this is not the first time that they have served the British well...

COLUMN

SIMON JENKINS Most speeches in my experience are read, "because I can't do it better". In which case, don't speak. The implication is that the audience has come merely for the pleasure of gazing on the speaker's face, as he reads what could be read far faster _ Page 22 on its own...

GEORGE BRIDGES

Britain's education system is guilty of institutional incompetence, not 1. racism. More than one in five adults, whatever their colour, can barely read a timetable.... Page 22

PHILIP HOWARD

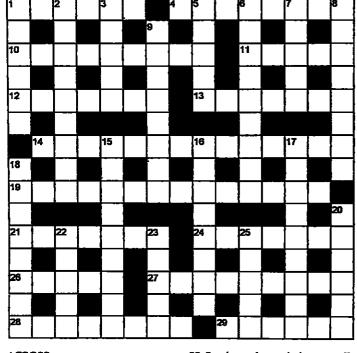
The Government has not yet thought through the literary and linguistic consequences of getting rid of the pound. To have Shylock insisting on his bond of 0.45359 kilograms of flesh will not fit into an iambic pentameter..... - Page 22

Sidney Gottlieb, CIA scientist: Ray Brock, winemaker, businessman and racing driver; Tom Baistow,

Budget; America's and global power; right to roam.

8, 18, 27, 32, 36, 49. Bonus: 46

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 21,049



ACROSS

i Flag officer (6). 4 It carried Scandinavian forces and desires with it (8). 10 Initially keep member can cult inside (3.1.5).

12 Fancy drink put forward (7).
13 Puzzling expression of grief at 5-0

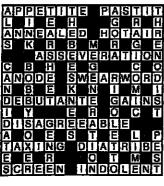
14 Save from drowning someone out of his depth (4.3.2.5). 19 Lack of appreciation unless great

fun is arranged (14).
21 Dairy product used in apricot 24 ... cooked, then, can be delightful

26 Bear's not right to invest like this

27 He's been given prescription conzaining iodine, going by the book

Solution to Puzzle No 21,048



28 Southern vineyard given very lit tle inspection (8). 29 Villain beginning to wisecrack

DOWN I inconsiderate, but not initially

mischievous (6). 2 Lad has to remove cover from fish

American private doctor introducing singular gadget (5). Prefer one Conservative

for local consumption (5). Wrong year, wrong ploy at Twickenham (9). Frequent answer received during

investigation (5). 8 Cosmetic treatment – price due to be revised (8). 9 Alternative to husky man unable

to talk (8).

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15 Deep as emotions chap experienced about creative work (9). 16 Plenty to cry about formerly? On the contrary! (8). 17 Will try to get the last word, and

thereby put end to argument (9). 18 Periods for which accommoda tion is required (8). 20 The way irritating sensation can

become pain (6). 22 Having caught fish on river, get a drink (5). 23 A professional needs new stage

part (5). 25 Can't always predict exact result when starting escapade (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 52

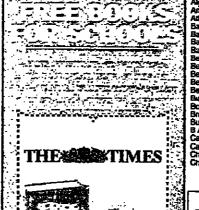
AA INFORMATION

0116 40: 746 0136 40: 747 0136 40: 748 0136 40: 910 0136 40: 188 The Met. Office

used car reports from 1950 cars 1950 440

HOURS OF DARKNESS





FORESEZ corne quite mild with sunny spells, but the south-east will stay dull. Most of Scotland and Northern Ireland will be windy with Ire-

lands: mild but dull with light rain, brightening slowly. Light SW wind. Max 13C (55F). ☐ Centi S England, W Midlands, Chan-nel Islands: dul at first, then surny spells Light SW breeze. Max 13C (55F).

Light SW breaze. Wax 130 (50°).

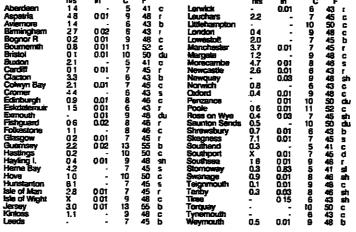
SW, NW, Cent N England, S&N
Wates, Lakes, to M: early rain, then surnry
spells and isolated showers later. Light SW
wind. Mex 12C (45°).

☐ E, NE England: early rain, then sunny spells. Moderate SW wind. Max 11C (52F).

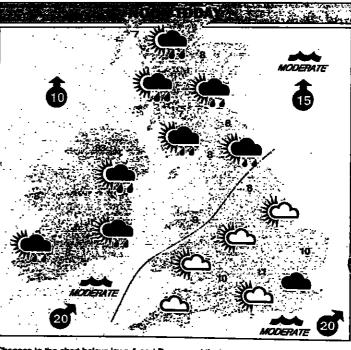
deen, Moray Firth: showers in north, some sun in south. Fresh SW wind. Max 10C (50F). SWIN Scale Fresh SW WILL Max 100 (Sur)
SW, NE, NW Scotland, Glasgow,
Cent Highlands, Argylt: sunny spels but
risk of showers by afternoon. Fresh SW
wind. Max 9C (48F). ☐ Orkney, Shetland wind. Max 8C (46F). ☐ N Ireland: sunny spells in south and east but showers in north and west, Light to

moderate SW wind. Max 10C (50F).

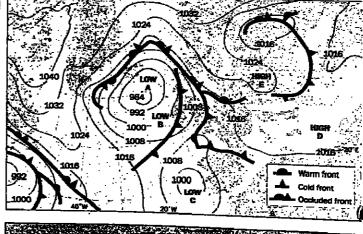
Republic of Ireland: showers. Wind SW, moderate or fresh. Max 10C (50F). ☐ Outlook: rain may linger in the south-east early tornorrow but most of the country will be mild with sunny spells.



-- Drumalbin, South



Changes to the chart below: lows A and B merge, drift slowly north, and begin to fill; low C slowly fills in situ; high D drifts around with fittle change, but high E will slowly decline



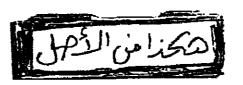
7.0 19:03 5.4 21:03 20 17:12 3.7 19:33 4.9 13:36 12:37 2.9 14:216 1.2 13:03 3.5 18:58 3.6 18:58 3.8 18:58 9.8 12:49 8.8 23:54 3.2 19:01 21,40 14,06 18,56 13,52 12,57 18,54 20,03 12,28 19,08 19,28 13,14 14,08 22,33 33 83 87 42 53 42 42 48 64 45 42 6.9 5.5 3.8 4.9 2.8 4.4 3.6 4.4 3.8 8.8 3.2 1:46

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back to best Arts, page 37



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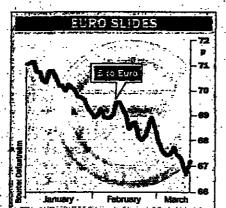
Wembley, what a fiasco

Arts, page 35

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

FRIDAY MARCH 12 1999

Euro revives after Lafontaine resigns



By Alasdair Murray ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE euro staged a remarkable recovery yesterday as international markets reacted with undisguised glee to the news that Oskar Latontaine, the German Finance

Minister, had resigned.
Investors quickly concluded that Herr
Lafontaine's departure would bring an end to the feuding between the European Central Bank and the German Government

which has marred the euro's debut.

The euro, which had traded close to record lows for most of the day, jumped more than two cents against the dollar with in minutes of the resignation — climbing from \$1.0800 to settle at about \$1.1000. The euro also wiped out most of its earlier losses against the pound, climbing back from a record low of 66.45p to reach 67.2p.

Earlier in the day the euro's problems had been thrown into sharp relief by comments made by George Soros, the billionaire speculator. Mr Soros said that the currency would remain under pressure as long as political tensions remained between the European Central Bank and some member states.

Analysts predicted that the resignation would boost the chances of a European rate cut because the ECB would now feel its independence was no longer under threat. Gwyn Hacche, European economist at HSBC, said: "Lafontaine was persistent in call-

ing on the ECB to cut, and the ECB couldn't be seen as giving into his wishes." But some The news, however, came too late to have any impact on European stock markets, although analysis predicted that European

economists added a note of caution, saying that, until a successor was appointed, huge un-certainties remain. Robin Marshall, head of

search at Chase, the investment bank, said:

"It doesn't solve the underlying policy issues in euroland, so the danger of pressures be-tween fiscal and monetary policy remains."

European bonds, including British gilts,

also climbed higher after the resignation.

markets would climb higher today on hopes of an ECB rate cut and because of the widespread perception that Herr Lafontaine was

Shares in London are also expected to test new highs after setting a record yesterday.

ance from oil stocks as Opec countries finally moved towards an agreement to cut production. The news sent oil prices climbing and also helped to push Wall Street more than 100 points higher to its own record high. The FTSE 100 index of leading shares closed up 94.2 at 6.335.7, having earlier also touched a record intra-day high of 6,360.3. Shares in BP and Shell, which closed up 9.3 per cent and 8.3 per cent respectively, contributed about 60 points to the FTSE 100's gain. Financial services shares also made strong gains after the surprise Prudential Corporation takeover bid for M&G Group revived hopes of further consolidation in the sector.

Commentary, page 29



No tears for this Oskar Pru bid boosts FTS



Tempting target

How M&G attracted an offer it could not refuse

Page 31									
SPOCK MARKET									
TSE 100									
TSE All Share 2908.34 (+42.53) Bidrai 15502.14 (+22.14) Isw York									
low Jones									
US PARE									
ederal funds 4"-%" (4"-%) ong bond 95%" (95%) ied 5.58%" (5.58%)									
LONDON MONEY									
mth interbank									
ALTE (JARI)									



(8.8 per cent) in the year to Sep Saatchi won a record \$500 million (£300 million) net new NORTH SEA OR. billings in the year and has

Brenit5-dav(May). \$12.70 (\$12.10

The Pru to pay £1.9bn for M&G takeover

By CAROLINE MERRELL, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

PRUDENTIAL, Britain's biggest insurer, yesterday paid £1.9 billion in cash to secure M&G; the fund management group, in a bid to consolidate its position in the retail financial services market.

The Pru's cash offer, recommended by the M&G board, values M&G shares at £25, a 40 per cent premium to the pre-Five months ago, they stood at

The takeover, which comes after a year of talking to each other, will enhance Prudential's retail product range and position it for what it believes will be huge growth in the sav-ings and pensions market. The Pru estimates that this market will grow from £160 billion to £420 billion over the

Pointing to recent govern-ment initiatives, which the Pru believes will lead to massive

growth in private pensions and personal savings, Sir Peter Davs, Prudential's group chief executive, said: "Our vision is quite clear about the growth in the market for these products."

M&G directors can expect to net about £8 million under the terms of the offer from their own shares, excluding options. Many of the fund manager's 1,000 staff will also benefit. Sir Peter said he was confident that M&G's directors and

managers would remain after The Pru said yesterday that it was not planning extensive job cuts. However, an internal memo leaked from the Pru last night suggested that it plans to trim M&G personnel. The memo says: "There is scope for rationalisation of retail fund administration and of M&G's life and pensions back office." Under the terms of deal

M&G's retail fund management operation, which has more than £10 billion under management, will be merged with Prudential's unit trust division, which has about £3 billion under management. The M&G brand will be kept.

M&G's life and pensions business, which has £3 billion under management, will be and pensions business, while M&G's institutional funds will be put together with Prudential Portiolio Management. M&G has more than 700,000 customers, while Prudential has ten million worldwide.

Sir Peter said the Pru first apago. M&G was at that time suf fering from a deluge of bad publicity over poor fund performance. Independent finan-cial advisers, its main source of distribution, had been put off selling its products and M&G was forced to implement a series of internal changes to try to tighten up its investment

methods and performance. Crucial to the takeover has been the role of the Esmee Fairbairn Charitable Trust, which owns about 33.3 per cent of M&G. The trust was set up by Ian Fairbairn, one of the founder's of M&G. The trust had always been reluctant to sell. John Fairbairn, lan Fairhairn's nephew and the trust's chairman, said: "We have a continuing regard and a kind of parental attitude to M&G. We think the two companies fit together very well." Fair-bairn himself stands to make

fill million from the deal. Some analysts claimed that Prudential was paying too much for M&G. Thomas Rayner at SG Securities said: "It is a bit of a full price at 10 per cent of M&G's funds under management. M&G is almost all retail business but it is pretty aggressive for a group which has been struggling in terms of performance."

The deal leaves Schroders and Perpetual as the two reng big quoted independent fund managers in the UK. 6 per cent fall in adjusted pre-



Bob Seelert, head of Saatchi & Saatchi, whose clients include the British Army, paraded a 30 per cent profit rise in the firm's first full year since demerger

BY RAYMOND SNODDY

SAATCHI & SAATCHI, the advertising group whose clients in-clude the British Army, celebrated its first full year since the demerger from Cordiant with a 30 per cent rise in underlying pretax profits to £30.7 million.

Bob Seelert, Saatchi chairman and architect of the deSeelert marches ahead

merger, said: "We could have sunk like a stone or flown like a bird. Both companies have done well, but we have got the

rate trading in December 1997 at 110p each. Yesterday Cordiant was unchanged at 164½p. while Saatchi rose 6p to 189%p. "Shareholders should have

a smile on their faces," said

Mr Seelert, who is closer than his erstwhile colleagues to his target for a 10 per cent margin in 1999. The Saatchi margin. including income from joint ventures, rose to 9.3 per cent

won a further \$200 million so far this year. The company, which did not pay an interim dividend, has lifted the final payment to

Warning hits

By RAYMOND SNODDY, MEDIA EDITOR

SHARES of Reed Elsevier fell sharply yesterday after the Anglo-Dutch information group reported a fall in underlying profits and gave warning that earnings growth would be negligi-

The shares fell 51p to a low of 513%p before edging higher to close at 5321/p, down 32p on the day. Investors were also concerned by the company's failure to name a new chief executive after a seven-month search.

The position is vacant after Nigel Stapleton's decision to leave the group. Mr Stapleton is currently co-chairman, sharing the role with Herman Bruggink, head of Elsevier, the group's Dutch arm.

Reed Elsevier yesterday said the search had been narrowed to just two candidates from outside the group, and an announcement was possible at the company's annual meeting next month_

The company reported a

tax profits to £773 million in 1998 and the co-chairman said that 1999 "will not be a year of any significant profit growth". Despite the setback Mr Sta-

pleton said that "looking behind the numbers" there was plenty to give shareholders confidence. The 1998 results had been affected by issues that were unlikely to recur. They included the 2 per cent earnings growth lost through dilution from the sale of IPC Magazines. which netted a £692 million exceptional gain, adverse currency movements and problems with Reed's travel information

During the year Reed Elsevier also spent £80 million on new developments including the ScienceDirect, an online data base containing 1,000 scientific journals in electronic form and undates to Lexis-Nexis, the legal and general data base.

Mirror report Reed Elsevier pressure grows

THE Government is coming under pressure to publish a potentially explosive report into the 1991 flotation of Mirror Group Newspapers, after the High Court ruled that ongoing investigations of Kevin

In a ruling handed down yesterday, which raises seri-ous questions about the methods used in Department of Trade and Industry investigations, Sir Richard Scott, the Vice-Chancellor, said DTI inspectors were unreasonable and oppressive in demanding interviews with Mr Maxwell, coungest son of the late publishing tycoon Robert Maxwell. Rejecting the DTI's at-tempt to commit Mr Maxwell, 39, for contempt, the judge said the inspectors should make use of evidence gath-

Maxwell are unfair.

ered in previous interviews. The DTI may now find it hard to resist calls to publish interim report into the

tigation in which evidence has been seen or heard from 276

The report threatens serious embarrassment to leading figures in both politics and indus try. There have been sugges-tions that it has been deliberately suppressed. A DTI spokesman said last night. "We hope the judgment will allow the impasse to be resolved and lead to a speedy resolution

of the inspectors' inquiry."

Mr Maxwell, who defended himself in court, borrowed £15,000 from friends to pay for legal advice. He is seeking to recover his costs from the DTI. Mr Maxwell said: "The DTI were asking the court to find me in contempt, to send me to prison or fine me £10,000. The judge has said the procedures were oppressive and unfair and there was no requirement for me to answer the questions."

Commentary, page 29

Canary Wharf chiefs net £6m

BY CARL MORTISHED

TWO Canary Wharf directors will secure an instant gain of about £6 million on flotation if they exercise options granted to them only a year ago.

George Iacobescu, chief executive, and Peter Anderson, finance director, were each grant-ed options over shares, exercisable at a price of 791/2p. Canary Whari yesterday revealed that shares in the flotation would be placed with institutions at a price between 280p and 350p, valuing the company at £1.9 biltion to £2.3 billion.

Mr lacobescu has options over 3.6 million shares and Mr Anderson over a million shares. At the maximum placing price, the net gain for the two men would be more than £12 million. though only half of the options are exercisable immediately.

The pathfinder prospectus. published yesterday, also reveals that Paul Reichmann, who founded Canary Wharf, has been issued warrants that will increase his stake from 11

per cent to 15 per cent after the flotation. The warrants are exercisable at a price of 450p. The flotation price has been struck at the low end of valuation estimates for the company which owns a 4.7 million sq f office development in London's Docklands. The sponsors appear not to have adopt ed a discounted cashflow valu ation by Hillier Parker and Savills which included future profits and tax breaks pricing the company at £2.6 billion.

The owners, including Mi Reichmann, Prince al-Waleed hin Talal, CNA Financial, Franklin Mutual, the Glick family and interests of Edmond Saf-Canary Wharf will raise up to ES85 million in new funds. Canary Wharf is not being

sold to private investors; among risk factors cited in the prospectus is the impact of the euro on London's financial market

Tempus, page 30

Now boarding, Gate closed, Now boarding, Gate closed, Now boarding, Gate closed

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Telecom Italia to buy in mobile division

By Carl Mortished INTERNATIONAL **BUSINESS EDITOR**

TELECOM ITALIA plans to buy in its \$55 billion mobile telephone associate business. in a massive restructuring aimed at foiling a \$58 billion (£36 billion) bid from Olivetti. the ambitious electronics and telecoms conglomerate.

Franco Bernabe, chief executive of the embattled Italian utility, revealed the company's industrial strategy, comprising an offer for the outstanding 40 per cent of TIM. disposals of non-core assets, the enfranchisement of its socalled "savings" shares and a share buyback.

The move could scupper the bid by the much smaller Olivetti. Should Telecom Italia succeed in securing approval from its investors at a general meeting on April 16, the enlarged group could be valued at more than \$100 billion, well beyond the reach of Olivetti.

Olivetti is only bidding for the ordinary shares of Tele-com Italia. By enfranchising the savings shares, which re-ceive dividends but have no vote, Telecom Italia wili modernise its share structure and raise the stakes for Olivetti.

Telecom Italia needs investor consent to get approval for the restructuring from Con-sob, the Italian stock market regulator. However, analysts yesterday said the telephone utility would have little trouble in securing the necessary majority. TIM investors are being offered a premium of about 10 per cent in the offer.

Analysts reckoned that the integration of TIM was overdue as the company risked losing the full benefit of growth in mobile phones. One said: TIM was spun off to realise its value but telephone companies are seeing more business migrating to mobiles."

In addition, Telecom Italia is launching a share buyback programme for 10 per cent of the equity which will be financed by a €10 billion (£6.6 billion) financing on the capital markets.

http://www.times-money.co.nk

Electra proposes £500m share buyback scheme

ELECTRA Investment Trust. the embattled £1.3 billion venture capital fund, has offered to buy back its own shares at a cost of £544 million. The offer, worth 78op 2 share, sets a bid benchmark

for 3i, the rival venture capital specialist that wants to buy Electra. 3i's offer of 705p a share was turned down by the Electra board last month. Yesterday 3i said it was "considering its position".

Electra shares yesterday rose 40p to 7291:p. The price fell short of the buy-in price be-

cause of fears that 3i will be unwilling to match the 786p offer. In addition, Electra will only purchase a maximum of 40 per cent of the stock and doubts are being expressed about the value of Electra shares that will remain in existence after the buy-in is com-

Electra's board attempted to raise hopes that the underlying value of the trust is greater than 786p.

The 786p offer is equivalent to an updated net asset value published vesterday by Electra. But the board said its valuation policy was conservative. It said a more realistic value, given that past NAVs had underestimated realisable values for unquoted investements, was 915p a share.

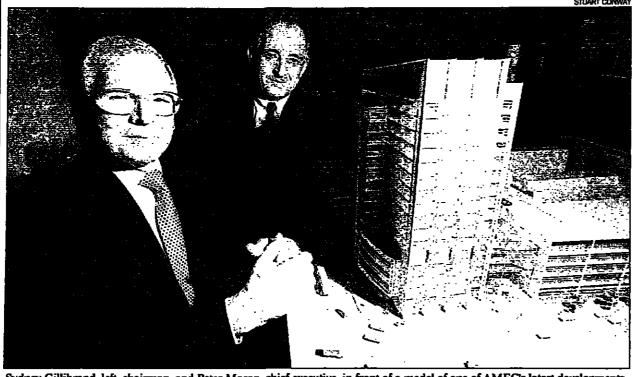
Peter Walls, investment trust analyst at Credit Lyonnais Securities, the stockbroker. said: "The 915p is pie in the sky stuff. People will be concentrating on 786p. That is a credible figure."

Directors yesterday pledged not to apply for shares in the buyback, as Electra attempted

to emphasise its belief that the true value of at least 915p would be proved correct. The buyback at 786p is structured as a tender offer. Electra will borrow up to £750 million to fund the purchase.

Yesterday Electra also announced the purchase of the outstanding 50 per cent of Electra Fleming, the fund management company that manages the Electra trust, from Robert Fleming, the investment bank, for £30 million.

Tempus, page 30



Sydney Gillibrand, left. chairman, and Peter Mason, chief executive, in front of a model of one of AMEC's latest developments

AMEC negotiates better return

By Paul Armstrong

AMEC, the construction group, has started to reap the benefits of its move away from competitive tendering with a 50 per cent jump in profit before tax and exceptionals.

The increase took profit on this basis to £71.4 million for 1998. Profits on asset sales in 1997 meant the result after exceptionals was up just 1.2 per cent at £69.2 million The strong growth in negoti-

ated contracts, as opposed to those it tendered for, furthered AMEC's campaign to differentiate itself from the rest of the construction sector. Investors responded by marking up AMEC shares by 12 per cent to 238 p. The stock has run from 155p in the past two months. Peter Mason, chief execu-

margins. Mr Mason said this

THE SUNDAY TIMES

THESUNDA

Can Gordon Brown's enterprise budget offer real benefits to British business or will it just be a bonanza for accountants? David Smith and a team of tax experts examine the chancellor's strategy.

PLUS: How will your pocket be hit? Our Money team provides an expert guide to the winners and losers on savings, pensions and personal faxation, with tips on how to beat the budget

THE SUNDAY TIMES IS THE SUNDAY PAPERS

was part of the company's strategy to provide a one-stop shop supplying the full range of construction-related services, from finance and design to building ownership and management. Mr Mason said that there

were signs that some European companies wanted new headquarters built on this basis. tive, said that 60 per cent of the Operating profit in the company's capital projects division capital project work won by AMEC in the UK last year was leapt 117 per cent to £20.6 milnegotiated, bringing higher lion, although margins were

Mason said these were expected to improve as AMEC shifted away from tendering.

AMEC's service businesses recorded a 24 per cent rise in profit to £38.3 million and its order book grew by 18 per cent to £880 million.

This was helped by the low oil price, which has encouraged petroleum companies to outsource much of their work. A final dividend of 4.15p was declared, taking the year's paystill low at about 1 per cent. Mr out to 6.25p, up 25 per cent.

UB calls for law on labelling GM food

By Fraser Nelson

UNITED BISCUITS, the food company that has just lost its chief executive to EMI, has called for the establishment of an international hallmark system to identify all genetically modified food.

The company, which makes McVitie's biscuits, said that the industry lacks a cast-iron guarantee that it is not buying ingredients derived from genetically modified (GM) crops. It said that, for the past 18 months, it has only used suppliers who say their ingredients are GM-free — but no one has been able to rule out traces of GM

food appearing in products. Eric Nicoli, who is to be replaced by Leslie van de Walle as chief executive, said: "At the moment, we're not required to say anything on the label. We are pushing for legislation to decide a sensible threshold above which GM food would be identified. We think GM food is safe, but if our customers don't want it, we'll try not to give it to them."

UB's underlying profit rose 4 per cent to £110 million for the 52 weeks to January 2. Return on capital employed, which Mr Nicoli sees as the most important measure of its performance, rose by 1.8

points to 18.6 per cent. After £30.8 million of exceptional items, full pre-tax profit dropped to an expected £79.3 million (£90.4 million). The £150 million share buyback programme lifted earnings per share to 11.5p (11.1p).

> Crunch time, page 31 City diary, page 31

Alchemy in hotels deal

ALCHEMY PARTNERS, the venture capitalist, has joined forces with Greenwich Nat-West, the global debt markets division of NatWest Group, to launch what is thought to be Europe's first securitisation in the hotel sector. The £52 million securitisation of Paramount Hotels, which Alchemy acquired for £77 million last summer, will allow the compa my to expand at a time of in creasing consolidation.

Hurricane batters Cox Insurance

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

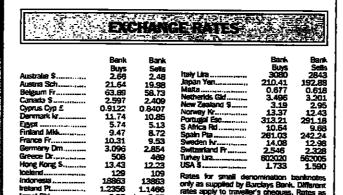
SHARES in Cox Insurance Holdings fell a further 16p to 1561-p yesterday after the Lloyd's insurer published final results. This followed a profits warning in December.

Pre-tax profits before the amortisation of goodwill and the cost of buying syndicate capaci-ty fell from £20.4 million in the first nine months of 1997 to £19.8 million for the whole of 1998. Adjusted earnings per share declined from 13.1p to

12.2p for the same periods. The drop in profits was largely caused by arise in exceptional claims in commercial underwrit-ing. A large claim from a Polish power plant combined with losses arising from Hurricane Georges in the Caribbean and continued losses on American extended warranties.

The company has hired a new chief executive for the commercial business - Stephen Bungay from Boston Consulting. Michael Dawson, chief executive. said the outlook for the commercial business remained tough.

Cox is paying a final dividend of 2.6p, making a year total of 3.5p, which compares with the 3.1p paid for the first nine months of 1997.



BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Asda victory in medicine price war

ASDA scored a significant victory in its campaign to start price wars in the medicine market yesterday after the Office of Fair Trading won approval to hold a hearing into the matter. The Restrictive Practices Court will meet at the end of next year to decide whether to abolish the price-fixing system that allows drug manufacturers to control the price of non-prescription medicine. It will consider Asda's claim that this system represents a health tax that leads to E200 million of overcharging each year. This is countered by small chemists, who believe that 3,000 out of Britain's 12,000 pharmacies will be forced out of business if they have to compete with the supermarkets.

Adda's researce taken up through a control of the Poids.

Asda's case was taken up three years ago by John Bridgman. Director-General of Fair Trading, who asked for the matter to be decided by the Restrictive Practices Court three years ago. Mr Bridgman said yesterday: "This is good news for the consumers who have been forced to pay unnecessarily high prices for too long. The court agreed with me that the market has shounded in the law 20 years with me that the market has changed in the last 29 years and it is time to look again at whether retail price maintenance is in the public interest." In 1970 it was decided that price-fixing was vital to protect small chemist shops from competing with supermarkets.

BBA meeting on VAT

THE British Bankers Association is to have an urgent meeting with Customs & Excise over changes to the VAT rules in the Budget which apply the tax to the outsourcing of many of the banks' back office functions. The BBA claims the change will cost the banks more than £75 million in extra tax. Leading accountants have pointed out that the change was contra-ry to the Chancellor's comments in the Budget that he would not be widening the scope of VAT.

Phytopharm trials

PHYTOPHARM, the company developing medicines from plants, is to begin phase II trials of a product thought to have the potential to prevent cancer of the colon. Richard Dixey. chief executive, said: "This might be the tamoxifen for colon cancer" — a reference to the controversial Zeneca drug that US researchers believe can prevent women developing breast cancer. Phytopharm shares, up 104p to 2824p, have multiplied in value six times in 15 months.

BoS targets savers

BANK OF SCOTLAND has become the latest financial services company to exploit the increasing demand for long-term savings by launching its own life assurance, pensions and investments business. Edinburgh Fund Managers will handle investment management for the business on an actively managed basis, while Legal & General will provide index-tracking investment products. The new range of products will be known as the Bank of Scotland Investors Club.

Thomson-CSF pledge

THOMSON-CSF, the French defence electronics group, reported an expected 1998 loss of £232 million (£155 million) but said it would be back in profit this year and promised big gains in operating profit from 2001. The losses arise from exceptional charges taken against restructuring aimed at cutting costs. Operating profits, struck before exceptionals, rose 7 per cent to £355 million. lion. In January Thomson lost to British Aerospace in a bid battle for the Marconi defence electronics subsidiary of GEC.

EBRD stays in Russia

THE European Bank for Reconstruction and Development promised yesterday that it would not quit Russia despite reporting huge year-end losses stemming from the country's financial meltdown. Steven Kaempfer, EBRD vice-president for finance, said the bank was investing for the long term. The EBRD said the Rus sian collapse had forced it to make provisions of 553.1 million ecus (£390 million), three times higher than the previous year. It reported an overall loss of 261.2 million ecus; operating profits rose.

BT takes £90m stake

BRITISH TELECOM made its first investment in Latin America with a 20 per cent stake in ImpSat, which is valued at £450 million. Sir Peter Bonfield. BT's chief executive, said BT was paying £90 million for its stake as a way of gaining access to big corporate customers in key cities in Brazil, Argentina and Mexico. The company, which has specialised in data, Internet and e-commerce services, will market Concert. BT's international services arm.

Qualceram advances

QUALCERAM, the bathroom furniture supplier based in Wick-low in the Republic of Ireland, said that, while its home market continues to grow, trading conditions in the UK are competitive. In the year to December 31, 1998, group sales rose 21 per cent to Ir E10.6 million (£9 million) and pre-tax profits rose 23 per cent to Ir £2.2 million. Earnings per share increased 18 per cent to Ir 14p. The company recommended a final dividend of Ir2.2p per share, lifting the full-year payout 10 per cent to Ir3.3p.

Wyevale enjoys growth

WYEVALE Garden Centres bucked the trend of their retailing cousins on the high street by enjoying an 11.7 per cent like-for-like sales increase at Christmas, which made up for tough trading earlier in the year, induced by the poor weather. Liketrading earlier in the year, induced by the poor weather. Like-for-like sales for 1998 grew by 4.1 per cent though acquisitions during the 12 months swelled sales to £75 million from £63 million. Pre-tax profits edged up 2 per cent to £9.3 million. The final dividend is 3.13p making a total of 7.7p (6.86p).

The Index-Tracking PEP

Source: Micropal LGM, Legal & General FTSE All-Share Index-Tracking PEP on an offer to bid base based on all PEP charges with gross income re-mested from 01.11.95 (since launch) to 01.03.09. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to foture performance. From 06.04.99 tax credits on UK dividend distributions will only be able to be realistical. DEE: able to be reclaimed by PEPs at a reduced rate of 10%. Both capital and income values may go drawn as well as up and you may not get back the amount invested. Full writer details are available on request. All statements are cornect as at 01,03,99. The Government have announced that contributions can only be made to PEPs until April 1999. From their dates a new tax metalend concess society, the can only be made to PEPs until April 1999. From that date a new Lix provinged savengs website, the Individual Savengs Account (ISA) will be available. Legal & General (Direct) Limited. Registered an England No. 270300, Registered Office: Temple Court. II Queen Victoria street, London ECAN 4TP Representative only of the Ligal & General marketing group, members of which are regulated by the Personal Investment Authority and UMBO for the Personal Investment Authority and UMBO for the

81.45%* growth in just over 3 years from the All-Share Index-Tracking PEP

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THE TIMES FR

getting what he wants ranted on about the no European Central Ban interest rates, he did for just what our own de Short did for the Railtr tion price. If both in had been swishing bit and dripping blood fro ish grins, they could has scored higher on the fea

The spectre of socialis ens markets. Ms Short that a new Labour Gor would renationalise ways, so drastically red attractiveness of an in in the Railtrack privates fontaine, who had app be largely in step with S in the run-up to his ele September, emerged a rassingly out of si Schroeder's centre left of While Tony Blair has b

ing towards Europe. Osk taine has played an a role in reminding those w paying attention of just right to be cautious abou up to the single currency. man Finance Minister: concerned about his axes

Wass value

WASSALL, the consistent that is reinventing itself as an : vestment firm, estimated its w ue at 34lp a share vesterilaalmost twice its market price. Chris Miller, chaef each tive, said: "We are more one dent of adding value for spaholders than at any time son

the creation of Wassall in 2 late Eighties ' In October Wassali poug

OM opts for £3bn listing

MEMBERS of OM Matual, the South African life assurance company. yesterday voted overwhelmingly in favour of shedding as montal stalion share listing in London and Johannesburg (Martin Baron woles). Old Mutual which will be ranked fifth

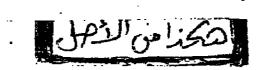
among London-ligad life assurers, has 3.2 miltion policyholders, manof whom have never before owned shares. Fach will receive a menimum of 200 shares.

It hopes to win a place in the FTSE 100 index following other South African groups such as South African Brewer-ies. Old Mutual bought British stockbrokers Albent E. Sharp and Capel Cure Meyers last year.

Chorio as it re

CHORION, the leasure group formerly known as Trocadero, bounced back into the black last year and will pay a dividend for the first time since John Conlan and Nick Tamblyn took the helm in July 1997.

The group reported a pre-tax profit of £3.02 million compared with a writedown-hit £31.6 million loss in 1997. Earnings per share reached 0.48p compared with a loss per share of 6.80p. Shareholders will get a dividend of 0.1p "reflect-





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Final sum advances

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up immediately.
Oskar Lafontaine had consistently called for a weak euro and proved exceedingly successful in getting what he wanted. As he ranted on about the need for the European Central Bank to slash interest rates, he did for the euro just what our own dear Clare Short did for the Railtrack flotation price. If both individuals had been swishing black capes and dripping blood from ghoulish grins, they could bardly have scored higher on the fear factor.

The spectra of socializes fright.

The spectre of socialism fright-ens markets. Ms Short intimated that a new Labour Government would renationalise the railways, so drastically reducing the attractiveness of an investment in the Railtrack privatisation. La-fontaine, who had appeared to be largely in step with Schroeder in the run-up to his election last September, emerged as embar-rassingly out of step with Schroeder's centre left coalition. While Tony Blair has been heading towards Europe, Oskar Laton-taine has played an invaluable role in reminding those who were paying attention of just why it is

right to be cautious about signing

up to the single currency. The Ger-

man Finance Minister is rightly

concerned about his country's eco-

nomic plight. Germany's economy shrunk in the last quarter of 1998; its industrial production fell by 7.8 per cent, a rather worse performance than even Japan managed. Herr Lafontaine's prescribed solution was to hack down interest rates and let spending rip.
But one-size solutions do not fit every countries' problems and his demands caused consterna-tion within the EU as well as without. The European Central Bank, as independent as our own Bank in setting interest rates, may have been unmoved by Oskar's lamentations but

there were some who feared that. had he been able to, he would have bludgeoned down the ECB door and set the rate himself. While he was worrying about interest rates, he failed to deliver the tay reference for which Gerthe tax reforms for which German industry is crying out. The result has been to deter foreign investment from the country and to make some German organisations consider whether they might not be more comfortable headquartered elsewhere. The head of the Federation of

German Industries, Hans-Olaf

Henkel, was moved to bleat that

we find ourselves in the difficult

situation of having someone who

COMMENTARY by our City Editor

knows nothing about business, who never studied economics telling us what we should think about business and economics. That is a predicament in which people in many countries can find themselves. As they fully digest Gordon Brown's Budget, many in Britain may sympathise with Herr Kenkel. But they should ask themselves whether they would feel more comforta-ble with the European version.

Sir Peter sticks to hoarses for courses ir Peter Davis was nursing

a sore throat yesterday but a sore unous yestermy one even his hoarseness could not disguise his delight in his lat-est acquisition. Not so long ago. Sir Peter thought a bank or a building society would be the per-fect complement to his business but condenses has assembled. but good sense has prevailed. Old-fashioned financial institu-tions are lumbered with vast

property portfolios. With the hugely successful launch of Egg, the Pru has demonstrated that heavy real estate costs are not a prerequisite of a successful financial services business. The banks are struggling to offload their unwanted properties, the demand from breweries intent on opening yet another new drinking estab-lishment to trade under the ban-

No tears for this Oskar

rer "Counting House" or "The Vaults" having slowed of late.

Today telephone banking is taking a growing share of the market and Internet banking is coming along behind. The mushrooming of automatic telling machines in useful places such as train stations and even - oh, what innovation - in Marks & Spencer stores renders most

bank branches redundant.
But M&G brings new products and marketing expertise to
the Pru and together they should be able to make the most of the increase in personal saving that they believe inevitable. The Isas and Lisas and stakeholder pensions that are going to rake in the extra cash are not vouchers for heavy profits. The emphasis, underlined by the Chancellor again on Tuesday, is that these new products should be low-cost offerings. With Government intent on taking over from the Consumers Association, and the FSA set to publish the equivalent of Which? guides to personal finance, margins on the new savings and pensions products are going to look

a little thin.

lies in volume. That is what M&G will bring to the Pru, already di-gesting Scottish Amicable. Sys-tems will be combined, costs brought down and the result will be a boost to the bottom line.

The M&G name will remain.

Rather like the Pru, it seems that its reputation with the public has survived despite some apparent efforts to destroy it. The fund manager did not mis-sell, per-haps, but it did mismanage, and

The answer, reasons Sir Peter,

over several years its relative performance slouched.

But Michael McLintock has

been striving to rejuvenate the organisation, and there is a feeling in the City that he is winning. Certainly the Pru feels that it is buying M&G when it is "on the turn".

Arnault fashions Gucci coup

X 7 hile the fashion editors concentrate on hem-lines and the extraordi-nary head-dresses that Alexander McQueen set atop his models. City editors are having much more fun watching the spat be-tween two fashion businesses. The dispute between LVMH and Gucci seems set to outlast Paris Fashion Week and could still be going next season.

The two companies have now agreed that they should do the bidding of the Amsterdam court and start talking about how they could settle their dispute. The two sides seem likely to end up spitting pins at each other. Bernard Arnault, of LVMH, is not about to give up, the 34 per cent stake he give up the 34 per cent stake he has acquired in Gucci and Gucci

is reluctant to back track on its clever wheeze of diluting his stake by doling out new shares to staff. But the crafty M Arnault has a record of coming out of such ap-parent impasses with a victor's smile. If he offers Gucci a solemn

undertaking - and they would probably want it in triplicate and witnessed by lawyers — that he would not increase his stake in the business, Gucci would appear churlish if they did not at least listen to his contentions of why LVMH would be able to boost Gucci's profitability.

Both sides are assembling the

arguments to demonstrate their cases. Superficially, Gucci's record seems to show that it does not need M Arnault's input. But the man who successfully held the Diageo deal to ransom should not be underestimated.

Straw's law

JACK STRAW says he will not take account of a DTI inspectors' report critical of Mohamed Al Fayed when deciding whether to give him citizenship: too much time has passed since the events of 1986. Mr Straw is following good precedent. It was the City's collective decision to draw a veil over an old DTI report, which said Robert Maxwell was unfit to run a public company, that allowed the late MP to get his hands on all those pension funds. Now the DTI is looking into Maxwell's second coming.

Wassall puts value at twice market price

By Paul Durman

WASSALL, the conglomerate that is reinventing itself as an investment firm, estimated its valne at 341p a share yesterday —

almost twice its market price. Chris Miller, chief execu-tive, said: "We are more confident of adding value for shareholders than at any time since the creation of Wassall in the late Eighties."
In October Wassall bought

OM opts for £3bn listing

MEMBERS of Old Mutual, the South African whelmingly in favour of shedding its mutual status in favour of a £3 billion share listing in London and Johannesburg (Martin Barow writes).

Old Mutual, which will be ranked fifth among London-listed life assurers, has 3.2 million policyholders, many of whom have never be fore owned shares. Each will receive a minimum of 200 shares.

It hopes to win a place in the FTSE 100 index following other South African groups such as South African Breweries. Old Mutual bought British stockbrokers Albert E. Sharp and Capel Cure Meyers last year.

TLG, the Thorn Lighting business, for £363 million, and it has also acquired a 9.3 per cent stake in BICC, the cables group. It was the cables industry that gave Wassall one of its most spectacular past success-es, with its investment in General Cable of the US, which

produced a £278 million profit. However, the market has not welcomed the company's tempt to act as a private equifirm. Its shares have collapsed from 38hp early last

year to only 192p.

The group's existing trading activities — which include DIY sealants, bottle tops and suitcases - maintained annual profits at £32.8 million (£32.1 million) in difficult trading conditions. Wassall said that, after stripping out currency, profits from continuing operations rose 12 per cent.

Pre-tax profits were £25.1 million. The previous year's total was bloated by the gain on General Cable. A final dividend of 5.5p leaves the total unchanged at

7.8p a share. Mr Miller said Thorn Lighting "has tremendous potential and already looks like a great acquisition". In the final few months of the year it contributed £7.1 million of profits.

Wassall has embarked on a wide-ranging European reor-ganisation of Thorn Lighting, and it plans to invest an additional £30 million in it over the next three years. The group said it still has

substantial scope to make further acquisitions.



Food and drink group says the worst of the Asian economic crisis is over



Spirited performance: Tony Greener, left, chairman of Diageo, and John McGrath, chief executive, reported that the outlook for the company was positive Diageo remains optimistic

By Dominic Walsh

DIAGEO, the Burger King restaurants to Gordon's gin group, said yesterday that the worst effects of the Asian economic crisis were now behind it and the general outlook was "pretty positive".

In the half-year to December 31, the group's UDV sprits and wine division saw a 19 per cent decline in profits in the region, with volumes down by 30 per cent. However, Phil Yea, finance director, said: "In

recent months there has been a marginal improvement, albeit from a lower base."

The Asian crisis, allied to un-certainty in Latin America, were among the factors that contributed to a 12.5 per cent decline in Diageo's profits before tax and exceptionals to £1.05 billion. Some £54 million of profit was lost from the sale of Dewar's whisky and Bombay gin to satisfy regulatory reourements after the merger of Guinness and GrandMet. However, underlying prof-

its were up 4 per cent on a comparable basis and the group said it had achieved merger savings of £61 million during the period. Earnings per share excluding exceptionals were down 0.5 per cent to 20.5p but the interim dividend has been lifted by 8 per cent to 7.8p.

UDV reported a 4 per cent rise in operating profits to E589 million, with Europe and North America both seeing strong growth. Volumes for its top five brand/market combinations, where the bulk of mar-

per cent lower at £334 million. In the UK, Smirnoff vodka, Bell's whisky and Gordon's gin all declined. Improved marketing at its

Guinness brewing arm paid off with a 13 per cent rise in profits to £149 million, with draught Guinness volumes in the UK rising 3 per cent. How-ever, profits at Burger King were flat as the closure of some of its US units counter-

chanelled, rose by 3 per cent. Total marketing spend was 16 same-store sales.

The problems in Pillsbury's

North American food business, where intense competition resulted in a 4 per cent volume decline, led to a 3 per cent drop in divisional profits to £263 million, compared with a 14 per cent uplift last year. Mr Yea said one-off factors such as higher cream costs would fade in the second half and trading was expected to improve.

Tempus, page 30

QMH to consider action on debts

BY DOMINIC WALSH

QUEENS MOAT HOUSES. the four-star hotel operator, is actively looking at ways of refi-nancing part of its £800 mil-lion debt mountain, although it is intent on avoiding issuing fresh equity.

The debts have come down

from El.4 billion since QMH was on the brink of collapse in 1993, but a further refinancing of £180 million of senior-term debt was always inevitable be-fore the end of 2000. While issuing new shares is one of the options, the group is consider-ing accessing the European debt markets.

Andrew Coppel, chief executive, said: "The more progress we make, the more options become available. The equity route is not our preferred route and not at these prices. We've spent six years trying to avoid massive shareholder di-

Queens Moat yesterday reported a 71 per cent jump in profits before tax and exceptionals in 1998 to £33.5 million from like-for-like sales up 6.4 per cent to £375.3 million. Trading profits in the UK rose 11.4 per cent, with room occupancy flat at 73 per cent and average room rates 5.2 per cent higher at £56.31.

Mr Coppel said that its businesses in Germany and The Netherlands had also performed strongly, and would continue to do so in 1999, although growth was slowing in the UK

The protracted case for wrongful dismissal brought by four former directors, on which a judgment is expected ny more than £6 million.

Chorion pays dividend John Lewis adds as it returns to profit

BY DOMINIC WALSH

CHORION, the leisure group formerly known as Trocadero, bounced back into the black last year and will pay a dividend for the first time since John Conlan and Nick Tamblyn took the helm in July 1997. The group reported a pre-

tax profit of £3.02 million compared with a writedown-hit £31.6 million loss in 1997. Earnings per share reached 0.48p compared with a loss per share of 6.80p. Shareholders will get a dividend of 0.1p "reflecting the substantial turnaround in the company's per-

formance and the board's confidence in the future". The new bars division made a contribution of £2.1 million in the nine months since it was acquired by Chorion, well ahead of expectations.

Its £3 million Tiger Tiger venue, which opened in London's Haymarket in November, has traded so strongly that the group has accelerated plans to roll out the concept. Four new units in London are in the pipeline, and terms have been agreed for sites in Croydon, Manchester, Leeds and Birming-

Its intellectual property division, which owns the copy-right to the works of Enid Blyton and Agatha Christie, lifted operating profits by 60 per cent to £3.2 million. A further 25 Noddy in Toyland programmes are now in production and Chorion has signed an agreement to develop the Noddy brand with BBC Worldwide.

to retail gloom

By Fraser Nelson

JOHN LEWIS took its turn to give warning about more hard times on the high street yesterday as it returned a 17 per cent decrease in annual profits. Sir Stuart Hampson, chair-

man, said the company had been badly hit by a retail downturn that had left its 23 department stores in the "doldrums". He said: "This is a momen when it is pleasanter to look back than forward. This is a year for taking every week as it comes. I foresee a sticky few

months ahead." Its department store sales were frozen at £1.75 billion for

the year to January 30. The 120 Waitrose supermarkets

(£1.67 billion). A 3.2 per cent increase in costs left trading profit at £225 million (£272 million) before a £33.5 million VAT refund. This left £89 million for its staff bonus, which averages at £2,280 per person.

saw sales rise to £1.73 billion

In the next few weeks, John Lewis department stores will start trading at the Bluewater shopping complex in Kent and Glasgow. Two further stores are under construction in Southampton and Solihull.

French trump Amey to bag Servisair

A FRENCH airport services company has trumped Amey Group's attempted hostile takeover of Servisair, the baggage-handling company. Servisair said yesterday

that it had agreed to a cash offer of 230p a share from Penauille Polyservices, representing a 15 per cent premium to Amey's offer. Brian Staples, chief execu-

tive of Amey, an outsourcing group, said his company would not lift its bid and planned to sell its 2 per cent stake in Servisair to Penauille.

Servisair said Penauille had

received irrevocable undertakings to accept the bid from holders of 41.4 per cent of the shares. Brokers for Penauille are understood to have secured another 7 per cent on the stock market yesterday. Servisair shares closed

24½p higher at 231p.
John Willis, Servisair chairman, said Penauille's £94 million offer was significantly higher than Amey's bid and was fair value.

Penauille's offer represents 98 per cent premium to the price at which Servisair shares were trading shortly before it revealed in December that it was in takeover talks.

Servisair had rejected

Amey's offer on the grounds that it failed to recognise the profit growth that would flow from the company's strong position in European mar Mr Willis said Servisair had

spoken to several potential bidders in the past two months but added that he did not expect any other offers to

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Pru's bid helps FTSE roar past 6,300 mark

both sides of the Atlantic returned to fast-forward yesterday, sending share prices in London and New York soaring to record highs.

Although prices in the City closed off their best on the day. investors were clearly influenced by the opening gain of 163 points for the Dow Jones industrial average, which re-sumed its advance on the

The FTSE 100 index finished 94.2 higher at 6,335.7, after briefly touching a high of 6,360.3. The FTSE 250 index rose 84.3 to 5,493.3, suggesting that investors were still on the lookout for value among quality second-line stocks. A total of 1.3 billion shares changed hands.

Early gains were fuelled by further consolidation in the financial sector after Prudential Corporation, whose chief executive is Sir Peter Davis. launched an agreed cash bid of £25 a share for M&G Group. up 662!:p at £24.50. The deal values the fund management group at £1.9 billion. Prudential was down 169:p at

Further consolidation is expected within the sector judging by the gains seen in Perpetual. 4L2':p to E40.42': Edinburgh Fund Management, 42%p to 355p. Aberdeen Asset Management, 111 p to 1324 p, Brewin Dolphin, 20p to 550p, and Ger-

rard Group, 20p to 439p.
The bid for M&G is a reminder that timing is everything. Charles Bauer saw the price of Amvescap, where he is a director, climb 2712p to 646':p yesterday, just a day after he sold 443,000 shares at 620p. Fortunately, he still has 47.2 million, or 7 per cent, left. Another director, Gary Crum, also sold 150,000 shares at 620p and a further 250,000 at 665p, and now holds 33.8 million, or 5 per cent.

The banking sector was also thinking about consolidation in the wake of Banque Nationale de Paris's bid for rivals Paribas and Société Générale. Bardays climbed 79p to £18.93. Its name has been linked in recent weeks to the Pru. Gains were also seen in Northern Rock, 201:p to 542p, Lloyds TSB. 40p to 980p, and

Albright & Wilson held steady at 140! p after results earlier this week. The chemical specialist has a bid on the table of 130p from Albemarle



Jonathan Bloomer, left, Prudential finance director, and Sir Peter Davis saw Pru shares fall after the bid for M&G

of the US and now the speculators are waiting to see if Rhodia, the French company, will come back with an offer of as much as 180p a share.

Elsewhere in the sector, Kalon surged 1793p to 130p on reports that Total of France, the majority shareholder, may bid for the rest of the shares it

does not already own. Laporte was chased up 471/2p to 6321/2p ahead of results on Monday. Profits are likely to be uninspiring but the market will

want to see what impact the new management has made. Scapa rose a further 24p to 113 p on revived talk of a bid. British Fittings advanced 85:p to 113%p after announcing it was in receipt of another bid approach. A management buyout team is said to be ready to make

CRUDE PRICE 4,000 FTSE All-share FTSE 350 Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec Jan Feb

HOPES are growing that this month's meeting of the Opec oil ministers in Vienna will be able to thrash out a new agreement on production quotas.

Shares of the oil companies have been building up a head of steam in recent weeks convinced that a deal is there to be concluded.

BP Amoco was one of the strongest nies with a leap of 92p to £10.2114. Shell also put on 33%p to 396%p after moving to obtain permission to buy

back 5 per cent of its shares, restructure its downstream gas operations and make disposals. There were also gains for Enterprise Oil, 18%p to 321%p, Cairn Energy. 10p to 114/cp, Lasmo, 15p to 135p, Ranger Oil, 20p to 20212p, and Monument Oil & Gas, 44p to 424p.

Credit Lyonnais, the broker, points to the price of Brent crude at \$12 a barrel Rival broker Credit Suisse First Boston says that Shell and Enterprise will benefit most from any price rise.

tors say this latest offer could be worth up to 1300 a share.

It was the first day of dealings in Axon Group after a placing by WestLB Panmure, the broker, at 175p. The IT specialist opened at 205p and touched a high of 263p before settling at 254p, a premium of 79p. Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the broker, says the group's rating compares fa-vourably with its rivals, such

as Diagonal, up 21/2p at £12.15. Cortecs finished lp firmer at 24p despite Glen Travers, a director, selling 100,000 shares. It reduces his total holding to 6.9 million, or 4.37 per cent.

The breakdown in takeover talks left Jarvis Porter nursing a loss of 8p at 75p. The paper and packaging specialist now intends to implement its restructuring programme.

Speculative buying hoisted AIM-listed Stentor 8p to 26p in thin trading. Talk is that several potential bidders are stalking the shares, having seen the price of the loss-making company slump from a peak of 1961/2p since last October. Earlier this month, the price was just 61/p. Servisair continued to gather

pace with a jump of 244p to 231p after finding itself in receipt of an offer worth 230p a share from Penauille, the French group. This tops a bid of 200p a share already on the table from Amey, unchanged at 590p.

Yorklyde stood out with a

rise of 6p to 57p. It has escaped the levies being imposed on suppliers of cashmere garments by the US Government as part of the banana wars. Sources say the levy applies to suppliers of the garments. rather than those companies that provide the material. ☐ GILT EDGED: The bond market saw falls across the rield curve in thin conditions. The resignation of Oskar Lafontaine, the German Finance Minister, came after the close of business in London. But traders say it could prove positive for bonds and equities.

In the futures pit, the June series of the long gilt rose 35p to £116.54 on turnover of 27.000 contracts. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2021 rose 67p to £145.55. while Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was 13p better at £106.43. and optimism about the US economy drove the Dow Jones

industrial average over the

9,900 mark. By midday the in-

MAJOR INDICES Hong Kong: Amsterdam: 2950.5 (+19.1) Frankfurt Zurich: 7322.6 (+113.2) London: FT 30 _ _ _ FTSE 100 . _2934.4 (+37.42) RECENT ISSUES Close Bros Dev VCT Enhanced Zero Trust 1004 Jupiter En Zera Dv Pf Luminar Warrants 275 127 RIGHTS ISSUES Oxford Biomedica n/p (15) 3 MAJOR CHANGES

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Br Borneo..... Lon Scot Bk...

Lamont Hidgs... Water Hall Jarvis Porter.... Cox Insce.....

Hampion Trust.......16 Friends Wory Sime 182's

CANARY WHARF is as much a bet on the behaviour of its larger tenants (Morgan Stanley. CSFB, HSBC) and the markets in which they operate as it is on the property values. If the banks flee to Germany or the financial markets implode, the Canary will go hungry. But given London's, and the Docklands', headstart over Frankfurt, the Germans are unlikely to eclipse us. The historical advantage is bolstered by the language barrier. Of more concern is the mood on Wall Street because that, more than anything, holds the key to whether there will be the demand from banks and brokers required to fill the five million plus square feet of space. The attraction of Canary Wharf boils down to your view of the value of future develop-ment. Canary Wharf's valuers came up with two figures. The traditional UK open market

On the assumption that it achievement can only be will eventually find the right stretched so far. person, yesterday's plunge pro-The longer it takes to find a vides a chance to buy. In recent replacement the more the comweeks the hopes may have got petition will erode Reed's marover egged, but they remain well founded. There is a future cet position. But professional publishing and electronic mein specialist information. dia make an attractive invest-REED BETWEEN THE LINES ment issue must be resolved be-Adam Spielman at Salomon Smith Barney has pencilled in earnings per share of 34.7p, putting its shares on a multiple of 21 times. Although fears that LVMH may sell its 11 per cent stake have restrained share price growth. rapidly improving cashflow and a string of disposals make share buybacks almost inevitable. Hold. Electra EVEN the most gung-ho investors should now look for an exit from Electra Investment Trust, for at least part

of their holdings. There is a chance — em-

phatically endorsed by the Electra board — that those who hang on will receive more than the 786p that was laid on the table yesterday But beware Greeks bearing

is. I ne debi ina taking on to fund the tender will be a mighty millstone going forward. The challenge in realising cash from unquoted

value technique - which values the sites at their current worth - indicates the buildings not yet built are worth £622 million, But a USstyle discounted cashflow analysis of the hiture profits (including tax breaks) prices the "virtual" property at £1.5 billion.

To judge from the pricing of the float, the

Canary's pre-float soundings of investors encountered resistance to any attempt to price in much of the development potential. Nor. crucially, is there much in there to reflect the £400

million in enterprise zone tax breaks. This is good news. It leaves Canary shares conservatively priced and investors with plenty to play for. Institutional investors should certainly take a slice. Private individuals who are not being offered shares in the placing - should also buy, unless the stock races to an immediate, large premium.

rebound.

ment proposition. If Reed ap-

points soon, and the person is a

sensible choice, the shares will

fore genuine progress can be made. But it is so. The recent share run shows there is potential, but potential without

Canary poised to fly

Reed International REED International lost nearly 6 per cent of its value yesterday. Perhaps this was unsurprising since the annual results were uninspiring and the outlook for the current year was sketched as being as flat as a pancake But this was known, and Reed took its hammering in Decem-ber when the publisher issued a

profits warning. No, yesterday's self-off was sparked by the lack of real news. The near-6 per cent fall in the share price was exaggerated because shares in Reed -the UK-quoted vehicle for the Anglo Dutch publisher called Reed Elsevier - have run up strongly since the New Year (and since it was tipped as a Tempus share of the year). But the non-appointment of a new chief executive did the damage.

It sounds trite to state that this most pressing manage-

620 480

Diageo

THE sheer size and geographical spread of Diageo's four businesses makes interpreting its figures an invidious pursuit. But the positives outweigh the negatives, albeit marginally. Even in Asia, where spirits and beer took a hammering, the tide appears to have turned.

The main issue centres now on tackling Pillsbury. the performance of which gives cause for concern in the face of intense competition in its US heartland. Diageo's biggest division, spirits and wine, lifted profits by 4 per cent, with North America up an impressive 17 per cent. A 3.5 per cent rise in same-store sales at Burger King counterbalanced a one-off £6 million hit from the closure of 17 company-managed units in crease in marketing invest-

ment in the Guinness brand

was reflected in a 5 per cent

rise in volumes.

٧.

via a tender offer.

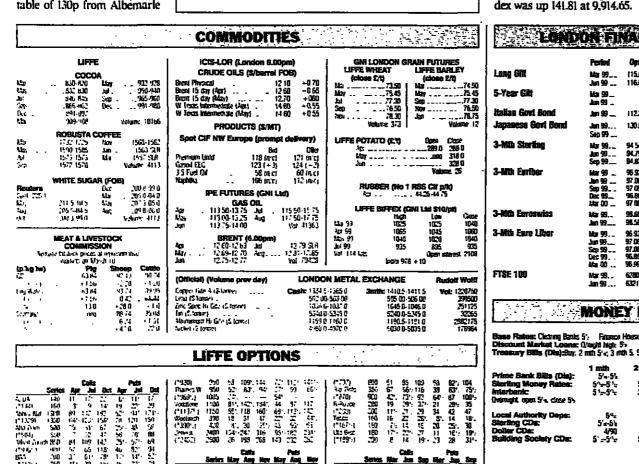
investments should not be underestimated. Moreover, economic conditions in the fiveyear liquidation period may not be as conducive to unquoted sales as they are at present. Electra shares will drop to a big discount as soon as the

tender is complete. The best outcome for Electra investors would be to see 3i come back with an offer at or near 786p. But given 3i's reticence thus far it seems unlikely that they will pay that

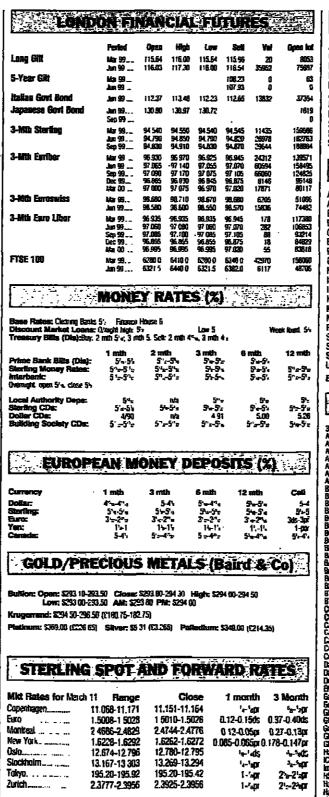
Cautious investors should sell in the market now. Electra stock has performed well and shareholders should be sitting on a nice profit. If you are more adventurous you may care to stay involved, but be sure to tender for at least your full entitlement in the tender offer. There could be a tasty long-term upside side risk means that you should reduce your exposure.

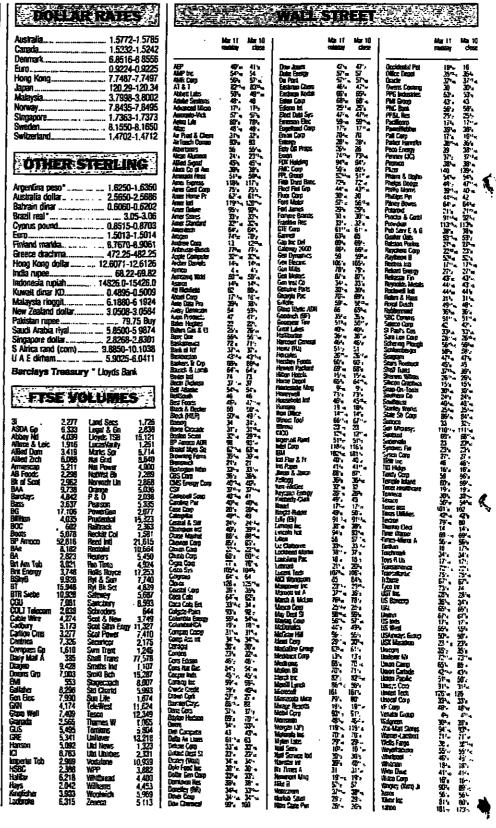
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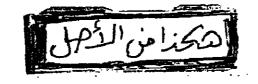
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Wembley deal was a funny old game

hen the name Wembley is mentioned, **Jason Nissé** on the winners and losers in the battle for the Twin Towers

emotions run high People remember Bert Trautmann struggling on in goal for Manchester City with a bro-ken neck in the 1956 FA Cup Final, Geoff Hurst scoring a hattrick for England in the 1966 World Cup final or Gareth Southgate's penalty being saved in the Euro 96 semi-final. That is why, when business decisions come to be made about Wembley Stadi-

seem to go out of the window. Shareholders in Wembley plc, the company which has owned the stadium for the past decade-and-a-half, yesterday voted to sell their prized as-set to the English National Stadium Development Company (ENSDC) — a subsidiary of the Football Association — for £103 million. The decision was greeted with joy at Lancaster

um, normal rules of commerce

which has been a bit short of good news, having seen the reigns of its chairman, chief executive and national team manager all end in quick succession. The FA has always said the redevelopment of Wembley is key to England's bid to host the 2006 World Cup and has threatened to take England matches away from the stadium if the compa-

ny did not sell. But the deal was opposed by three of Wembley's non-executive directors - Roger Brooke, the highly respected chairman of Candover Investments; Peter Mead, the founder of the advertising group Abbot Mead Vickers and deputy chairman of Millwall; and Jarvis Astaire, the promoter and agent who has been in-wolved with Wembley for long-er than anyone involved in the

story. They argued that it made no sense for a company that owns a whole series of assets around the stadium - inchiding an indoor arena and a conference centre -- to sell the centrepiece and give up any rights to managing the stadi-um. Wembley would end up like a doughnut with a hole in the middle, as it were.

The trio approached two potential bidders, Enic, the sports investment company, and SFx, the US stadium management group. Both wanted Wembley to keep an interest in the stadium, even if it was only on a management contract. They be-lieved the £150 million budgeted cost of rebuilding the stadium - a move that would involve demolishing the famous twin towers - looked exces-sive. The bids these companies said they might make for Wembley were in excess of 400p a share. Wembley's share price yesterday fell 11%p to 352%p after the sale was approved. What amazes the three rehel

directors is that Wembley shareholders were prepared to vote for a deal that was worth less money to them than other potential transactions. And it was not merely legions of football-mad small shareholders - who could be forgiven for being motivated by a sense of national duty - who voted against their financial interest. The deal was pushed through by two of the UK's largest fund managers - Phillips & Drew and Schroders Investment Management - who own 35 per cent of the compa-

ny between them. Mr Brooke is incensed by what has happened. He argues that what has happened

at Wembley is a smack in the face for all those people who have been campaigning for years for greater shareholder democracy and better corpo-rate governance. "We looked at the agreement, saw it was flawed and wanted it renegotiated," says Mr Brooke. "We looked to the institutional in-

vestors for support and they were not there."

At key moments in the battie, Mr Brooke felt that the three non-executives were isolated. When they tried to put forward a vote of no confidence against Claes Hultman, the Wembley chairman, they found it needed a unanimous vote of all directors. When they tried to convince certain leading shareholders that they

should reject the offer, their arguments fell on deaf ears. This does not bode well for the future of corporate govern-ance," says Mr Brooke. "If inspinitional investors ask directors to take an independent view, they have to respect the view they take."
P&D and Schroders were

not keen to talk about the battle openly yesterday. However, it is understood that they felt Wembley had little choice but to sell to the ENSDC because the stadium's largest customer is the Football Association. Messrs Brooke, Mead and

Astaire are now going to resign from Wembley's board although not immediately. They want to ensure that the company secures a good slate of new non-executives to try to keep Mr Hultman and his colleagues in some sort of check. Mr Hultman, though, is keen to tell anyone who will listen that the trio may have taken this battle into extra time, but the final whistle is about to be

termination of the banks and

insurers to expand into invest-

suggests the days of independ-

ent fund managers are num-

bered. Many of the bigger and better firms have already been

swallowed up: Gartmore by

NatWest, Mercury Asset Man-

agement by Merrill Lynch, Ju-

piter by Commerzbank and

Henderson by Australian Mu-

than £4 yesterday. Like the Es-mée Fairbairn trust, Martyn

Arbib, Perpetual's founder and

chairman, retains a dominant

shareholding. Now in his late

fifties, he is said to spend an in-

creasing amount of time at his

Fairbairn trust is not com-

plaining. It will receive £625

million. This will bolster funds

to make grants to support arts

and heritage, education, the environment, social welfare and

social and economic research.

John Fairbairn himself will re-

ceive III million for his stake.

though he says he did not in-

herit these shares, but bought

them all himself. Perhaps he

should start a charitable trust.

home in Barbados.

ittle wonder, then, that

shares in Perpetual,

the star firm of the 1990s, jumped by more

ment - whatever the price -

Crunch time for UB's new Frenchman

Fraser Nelson reports on the man given the task of lifting United

Biscuits out of the market mire

7 hen Napoleon was choosing rus guestion he would ask was "has he luck?" His idea was that, regardless of education, lucky generals tended to win the battles.

United Biscuits has chosen to replace Eric Nicoli, its EMI-bound chief executive, with Leslie van de Walle for exactly this reason. "This man is our version of Arsene Wenger, the Arsenal manag-er," Colin Short, the UB chairman, said yesterday. "He is also, in Napoleonic terms, a very lucky general." M van de Walle's CV does nothing to contradict this assertion. He was born and raised in Paris, and his luck

began when spent his French national service in South Carolina selling French exports to the Americans. "I had completed an MBA," he says. "When you have an MBA, you have two options in the Army: you can do military service or commerce. I am of very slight build, I cannot run very fast and I'm not a good shot. So they decided I would be of better use to my country trying to sell French bread and French hats."

His first industry job was in the sales and marketing department of Danone. From there he moved to Cadbury Schweppes, where he was swiftly promoted through the ranks of marketing director, commercial director and busi-

ness development director. In 1994 he joined United Biscuits as head of its European snacks division. Within a year, he was head of continental Europe and in March last year he was promoted to the UB board as head of McVities.

Since joining UB he has been a Londoner. "I've lived in London for four-and-a-Roger Cornick, Perpetual's deputy chairman, rejects the idea that the firm might be willing to surrender its indehalf years, but you wouldn't pendence. However, he acthink it from my accent. I live in the same place all the comes along and offers you a silly price, you have a fiduci-French live in London -South Kensington. My chilary duty to shareholders to take it seriously." dren go to the French school there, and they love it. Silly price or not, the Esmée

Soon after joining UB, Mr Nicoli began grooming him to become chief executive. "UB asked me if I would be interested some time ago. For the last three years, I started going in with them to the results. But it is one thing to be prepared for a job and another to actually do it." Aged 43, he now faces an

enormous task. Over the past few years UB has

Austin Reed

DOUDIE finish pure wool suits. With fabric

finished twice for a softer feel and enhanced crease

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resistance. Austin Reed: reflecting your sense of style.

crashed from being a £2.2 billion giant to one of the worst performers in London, worth just £858 million. It is accused of being an inefficient colossus that relies on mature, increasingly healthconscious markets that are already buying all the biscuits they want.

So what is to be done? His anwer is simple: same again. The summary of my strategy is this: take cost out of the business and spend money supporting the main brands," he says. "Size is important, but the health of a company is measured by re-

turn on capital." This is the same hymn sheet that Mr Nicoli has been singing from - and for this, M van de Walle makes no apology. "I think one of my key words will be continuity. The business is in good shape and we are doing the right things."

Cost-cutting is his speciality. He has just emerged from closing down a factory in France (a process, he ex-plains, that "takes ages and about ten lawyers") - and saved £10 million of costs on a division making £20 million of profit from £450 mil-

ultiply this around the United Bis-V1 cuits empire and you have what should be the magic of M van de Valle. But then there is the issue

of UB's shareholder value -and its ever-decreasing share price, now less than half the 400p level it reached four years ago.

His attitude to this decline has a touch of the Eric Cantonas. "The issue with the share price is that the price is the price. The market has taken the view that UB shares are worth 188p. I would buy shares at that point, but it's a

personal decision." But share price, not return on capital, is likely to be the standard by which shareholders will judge him. But tions about the biscuit market, seems ready to give him the benefit of the doubt. "UB needs to keep cutting costs. and they seem to have realised this by appointing van de Walle," said one analyst. And is he lucky? "I am

lucky because I have a beautiful wife and two lovely daughters and business has been good to me as well. Up to now, at least."

How M&G attracted an offer that it just could not refuse

Paul Durman

reports on the transformation

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Prudential's generous bid

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ity takeover documents routinely include sections for the acquiring company and its target to explain their motives for entering into a deal. Even by the coy standards of such documents, M&G Group's formal comments yesterday were unusually evasive about its real reason for recommending the £1.9 billion offer from Prudential Corporation. But it scarcely had to spell it out: the life insurer is paying a shedload of money for Britain's

oldest unit trust company. John Fairbairn, nephew of M&G's founder and the chairman of the Esmée Fairbairn Charitable Trust, which still owns a third of M&C, was price," he said, "is very, very good." Independent observers agreed. "It's an extremely high price," said Roman Cizdyn, an analyst at Merrill Lynch, Concern that Prudential has overpaid prompted its shares to fall by 2 per cent in a strongly

rising market. Prudential's offer of £25 a share is more than two-and-a-half times M&G's low during the crisis in world markets last autumn. The Pru is paying the equivalent of 10 per cent of the £18.5 billion of savings that M&G manages — a very high multiple by historical standards. To put it another way. the deal puts a £1.9 million price on the head of each of

M&G's 1,000 staff. This is a personal triumph for Michael McLintock, who is not 38 until later this month but has led a shake-up of M&G over the past two years. When he took over as managing director, M&G was in the unfamiliar position of being unpopular. Investors and inde-



M&G's reputation sagged to such an extent that even Lord Lawson of Blaby, the former Chancellor, failed to tempt investors

were shunning its funds. A few headlines from The Times tell the tale: "Performance left wanting at M&G", "A strategy of poor value for investors". "Can M&G come back?".

For years M&G was regarded as one of the most solid and dependable companies in the industry it created. Its investment funds - which eschewed the racier names favoured by younger rivals - might not be at the very top of the performance tables, but they had delivered consistent long-term results. The company's dull but effective press and poster advertising hammered home the message that investing in shares produced much better returns than leaving your mon-

ey in a building society. The growth in its funds through the 1980s and early 1990s was built on the value in-vestment philosophy. It sought out shares that were cheap on the basis of their assets or earnings, and laid particular emphasis on those paying high dividends. But, as

Phillips & Drew and other value disciples know to their cost, in the mid-1990s this approach ceased to work. Investors placed an increasing premium on growth stocks in areas such as pharmaceuticals and telecommunications, and turned their backs on the small com-panies in older industries where M&G had so much of

its money.

M&G performance sagged badly and its reputation went with it. The extent of the damage became painfully clear when the firm launched a high-income personal equity plan that drew only £20 million of new money despite it being backed by expensive television advertising featuring Lord Lawson of Blaby, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer. In its heyday M&G could attract ten times as much money into new funds al-

most without trying. Mr McLintock set about changing M&G's tried but failing methods. A profusion of similar funds was rationalised. A market-tracking fund was introduced - anathema to dyed-in-the-wool stock pickers. And although the fundamental value approach was retained, it was modified to ensure that the whole of M&G's business would not again be exposed to a change in investment fashions.

t the same time, Mr McLintock was under pressure from the Esmée Fairburn trust. As one of Britain's wealthiest charities, it had decided it could no longer justify having all its money tied up in a single company and was looking for an opportunity to diversify its investments. With such a large stake in M&G effectively up for sale, the fund manager's independence was increas-ingly called into question.

Mr Fairbairn rejects the notion that Mr McLintock was given an 18-month ultimatum to turn the firm around. He acknowleges that there was an unspoken deadline because of "our desire to find an escape route. He asked for some time because M&G needed a revamp. They've done a very M&G is not out of the woods

yet but sentiment has improved Ian Millward, investment marketing manager of Chase de Vere, said: They talk a very, very convincing story. Their performance is no longer as bad as it was. The jury's still out."

Although the firm suffered another outflow of funds to investors last year, yesterday it said it is enjoying strong net sales of retail unit trusts.

The justification for the price Prudential is paying is the belief that an increasing proportion of the British workforce will have to make their own savings for the future. M&G's expertise in unit trusts and Peps will allow it to expand the range of products it can offer to its customers.

Tarnished or not, M&G remains a strong brand, and the price recognises the scarcity

AN END to the "Dinnergate" scandal involving Saatchi & Saatchi and the New Zealand dinner with her.

increase in work from the New Zealand Tourist Board. I learn that Shipley, like all good politicians, has wriggled out of it. But Saatchi has been fired for coming up with profunding outside our budget". Teach you not to be so greedy.



Misconduct

ONE fund manager faces a nervous ten-day wait, be-cause Nicholas Hely-Hutchinson, of Singer & Friedlander, makes his debut as a conductor at Clifford Chance, the solicitors, on March 23. It is part of a programme by London Musici, a small orchestra that is embarking on a series of concerts at various City in-

stitutions.

The project is run by Mark Stephenson, a musician and conductor who realised that many of the spectacular buildings scattered around the Square Mile were ideal for music, and that there were plenty



Mozart: musical genius to

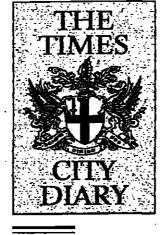
of amateur conductors available too. Hely-Hutchinson is the first

such. He will receive coaching from Stephenson to make sure he is up to scratch and then debut with part of Mozart's Eine Kleine Nachtmusik. "If this works, it will be a tri-

umph of enthusiasm over talent," he says, admitting only to playing piano "modestly" up to now. London Musici so far has limited itself to low-key events but is about to sign a deal with a big City institu-tion. Expect them at your local atrium soon.

A TELLING vignette at United Biscuits. Leslie van de Walle, incoming chief executive, is asked if there will be any more board changes. Eric Nicoli, whom he is replacing, starts shaking his head. Colin Short, chairman, chips in to say, yes, there will be new blood among the non-executives. Nicoli stops shaking his head and starts nodding in-

Nicoli is, of course, joining EMI, Long-suffering UB share-holders may be interested to learn his musical tastes tend towards the blues. Woke up this morning/My share price was way down on the floor.



Smallprint

EMBARRASSING, the things you have to admit when you float a company. Tucked away at the end of the Canary Wharf prospectus is the news that the company may be prosecuted by the Health and Safety Executive. This is over the death of an employee of a subcontractor last March who fell from a steel staircase while not wearing a safety harness.

Of rather less import, but

showing just how ludicrously exhaustive the disclosure requirements have become, is the entry for Sir Martin Jacomb, the senior non-executive. He is a director of both

Marks & Spencer and The

Telegraph, and the document duly lists four minor offences

volving incorrect pricing or advertising. The earliest dates

the two have notched up in-

Bugged STILL down at the Wharf, else-

where in the prospectus there is a warning about the millennium bug, and a long description of the work carried out so far debugging the security sys-tems, the lifts and whatever. More than £500,000 spent upgrading the core financial sys-tem, for example, some of this on bug catchir At the end of the note is the

following: "There can be no assurance that the steps taken ... will successfully eliminate or minimise vulnerabilities of its software and systems," or that any problems will not have a "material adverse effect" on Canary Wharf. I ask what the point is of inserting such a meaningless piece of reassurance to investors. The reply is curt: "Lawyers."

JEFF HAMBLIN, chief executive of the British Tourist Authority, used to run the US office. He has recalled some of the odder questions from potential visitors to this country. Such as "When is the Edinburgh Festival on in London?"
"When is the next performance of the Piccadilly Circus? And my favourite: "Are the Cotswolds open on Sundays?"

Ad enough

Prime Minister, Jenny Shipley, which has gripped that country since Kevin Roberts, Saatchi's chief executive, had Saatchi then won a massive

> MARTIN WALLER city.diary@the-times.co.uk

Rexam to complete disposals by year end

million) for 1998.

payout at 14.1p.

this year had followed the pattern of late last year.
A final dividend of 8p was

declared, leaving the year's

of the remaining non-strategic assets would leave Rexam

with packaging operations in food, beverage, health and beauty products and a coded

The surplus from these dis-

posals will, he said, be used to fund bolt-on acquisitions in

these sectors rather than one-

But Mr Börjesson warned

investors that they should not

expect future growth rates of

10 or 20 per cent, saying that

the packaging industry offered

"A couple of per cent growth

year after year is what you can

expect," he said. "There is

growth in packaging, but it is

not the magnitude of telecom-

Rexam shares closed 2p low-

er at 2021/p.

steady but stable returns.

film and papers division.

off major purchases.

Mr Börjesson said the sale

REXAM is set to finish shed- ic about the likely proceeds, ding its non-core assets by the end of this year, raising a further "several hundred million pounds" in the process, Rolf Börjesson, chief executive,

Mr Börjesson said Rexam planned to sell its printing op-erations and most of its building and engineering interests as the last stage of its 21/2-year campaign to focus solely on paper and packaging. He would not be more specif-

Total to buy out Kalon

BY MARTIN BARROW

SHARES in Kalon Group, the UK paintmaker, rose 17½p to 130p yesterday after the company revealed that Total. the French oil and chemicals group, was consider-ing taking full control of the business.

Total owns 63 per cent of Kalon, the legacy of a 1995 deal in which Kalon merged with Euridep, Total's paint arm.

Under the original deal, Total made a cash injection of £61 million to acquire a controlling stake in the merged venture. At the heart of the agreement was a plan to cut costs and improve the efficiency of the business. particularly in France.

Kalon shares peaked at 193p last year, but slumped to just 85p in October, reflecting difficult trading conditions. In 1997 the company earned pre-tax profits of £45.1 million on turnover of £472 million.

online forum



SIG, Europe's top supplier of insulation productions, struck a cautious note yes-terday, saying that the UK market is likely to come under further price pressure and the German market will re-

Meggitt

remains

upbeat

By Adam Jones

MEGGITT, the aerospace

and oil industry engineer, yes-

terday said that it was well

equipped to cope with a likely

Demand from Boeing, a cus-

tomer for Meggitt seals and

cockpit clocks. is expected to

peak this year. Mike Stacey,

the Meggitt chief executive,

fall in orders from Boeing.

main difficult (Robert Lea writes). For 1998 the Sheffield-based company — led by Bill Forrester, above, the chief executive - reported pre-tax profits of £37.5 million, up £2.1 million on turnover up

18 per cent at £795 million. Earnings per share were 20.1p (20p), while the final dividend is 5.6p, making a total of 8.4p, a rise of over 7 per cent. The shares,

European sees shares jump as offer is unveiled

SHARES in European Leisure iumped more than 25 per cent yesterday after the cue sports and nightclubs group un-veiled the terms of its planned merger with Allied Leisure, the ten-pin bowling and Burger King restaurants operator.

Under the terms of the offer,

European shareholders will re-

ceive 361 new Allied shares for

every 100 shares held faluing European at about 90 a share a premium of 46 per cent to the price before the two parties

admitted they were in talks on

said orders from small jet makers, plus military aircraft busi-Although the deal is being couched as a merger, in prac-tice it will involve Allied acquirness, would still be lucrative. He said the low oil price would mean a quiet year for Heatric, which makes heat exing its rival for £35.4 million and Allied's directors assumchangers for the oil and gas ining the top jobs. The combined dustry. Meggitt can afford to group will have a market capispend up to £50 million on actalisation of £68.1 million, with quisitions in areas such as European shareholders emerging with 52 per cent of the

aerospace. Meggitt was announcing 1998 profits of £35.4 million. up from £31.5 million in 1997. Sales rose 11 per cent to £293.9 million. Diluted earnings per share rose from 9.3p to 10.2p. The final dividend is 3.53p. making 5.15p for the year, up 10 per cent on last year.

By DOMINIC WALSH February 22. European's

> unchanged at 271/2p. Neil Goulden and Martin Scott, respectively chief executive and finance director of Allied, will assume the same posts in the merged board. Their counterparts at European, Ian Rock and Patrick Hooper, are expected to have their two-year contracts paid off. The chairman will be Victor Steel, currently chairman of European.

share price reacted with a 19p

rise to 921/2p, while Allied was

In the half-year to December 31, European reported a rise in operating profits from continuing operations from E3.19 million to £3.31 million, and the interim dividend is 1.4p (1.25p), in the same period. Allied lifted operating periods from £2.21 million to £2.53 million. The dividend is 0.38p (0.35p).

Gokal loses appeal

ANTHONY UPTO

By SAEED SHAH

ABBAS GOKAL, the Pakistani shipping tycoon, lost his appeal yesterday to overturn his conviction for the fraud that led to the spectacular collanse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International.

Lord Justice Christopher Rose, in a ruling at the Court of Appeal, said the evidence that saw Gokai, 62, sent to prison in 1997 for 14 years on two counts of conspiracy was overwhelming" and that he was at the heart of a highly sophisticated fraud "with international consequences of great gravity".

Gokal had been found guilty of syphoning \$1.2 billion out of BCCi. Gokal's Gulf Group, a Middle East shipping company, was the biggest borrower from BCCI. Gokal appealed on grounds of how he was brought into UK jurisdiction. having been extradited from Germany after being arrested in 1994 in Frankfurt, as his flight from Pakistan to the US stopped for refuelling.

SENSINESS ROUNDUP

EU cuts £8m from British Steel fine

A £22.4 MILLION line imposed on British Steel by the Euro pean Commission was reduced by more than £8 million by European Court judges yesterday. The fine, imposed in 1994 for British Steel's involvement in a price-rigging cartel, was

by the far the biggest individual penalty out of a total of £72.8 million in fines imposed on 17 European steelmakers.

The European Court of First Instance, which deals with legal challenges to EU competition laws, upheld the Commission's action in fining the steel county. sion's action in fining the steel cartel. It rejected counter-claims that the Commission itself was implicated in market igging, but agreed to cut the fines. British Steel's £22.4 million penalty was cut to £14 million. The fines were imposed after a Commission inquiry into the EU market in steel beams. Brussels declared that 17 steel firms were operating an illegal cartel, engaging in price fixing, market rigging and exchanging confidential information. The second-highest fine, of £8.5 million, was imposed on a French steel beam manufacturer.

German bank raided

POLICE have raided the head office of HypoVereinsbank, Germany's second-largest bank, in an investigation into the financing of its property investments. The Munich prosecutor launched the inquiry into real estate and accounting irregularities last October, shortly after HypoVereinsbank announced a DM3.5 billion (£1.25 billion) write-off for overvalued assets. These assets were owned by Hypo-Bank, which merged with Vereinsbank, its fellow Munich bank, last year. The dispute has cast a shadow over Germany's biggest banking merger in postwar history.

Davis Service ahead

DAVIS SERVICE GROUP, the laundry and HSS tool-hire company, lifted pre-tax profits for 1998 by 25 per cent, before exceptional items, to £55.2 million on turnover of £407.9 million, up 13 per cent. A final dividend of 8.5p, up from 7.6p, makes a full-year payout of 12.6p (11.33p). Davis said that forecasts for 1999 were difficult because of its range of activities. which are dependent on customer spending that is, in turn, determined by the economy, though current indications are good. The shares rose 25p to 45lp, near their record high.

Alcatel plans job cuts

ALCATEL, the French telecoms group, plans to cut 12,000 jobs worldwide over the next two years to achieve cost savings of about £200 million. Serge Tchuruk, Alcatel managing director, announced the cuts along with 1998 results, which showed net profit surging to €2.34 billion (£1.6 billion) from €711 million in 1997. Many of the job losses will be in the US where the group is to shut its Alcatel Data Networks unit. The company's share price plunged almost 40 per cent in a single day last September when M Tchuruk said 1998 results would be worse than expected.

Hemingway profit dip

HEMINGWAY Properties yesterday said that the fall in interest rates makes property a "very good" asset class for invest-ment. However, despite reporting net assets per share up 8 per cent to 55.1p for the year to December 31, 1998, shares in the property investment company yesterday stood at 25%p, up 2%p on the day but still off their 12-month high of 49%p. Pre-tax profits fell to £5.2 million, from £7.8 million, because of reduced property sales. A final dividend of 0.47p per share raises the total payment for the year by 10 per cent to 0.67p.

Lamont's lament

FALLING demand, disrupted production and the cost of laying off staff resulted in a drastic fall in profits of Lamont Holdings, the Belfast linen and carpets group. Operating profits came in at just £451,000, against £7.2 million, last year on turnover down by more than 10 per cent at £83 million. Earnings per share, boosted by a property disposal, came in at 4.43p (20.01p). The total dividend for the year falls to 3.65p, from 12.8p. The shares dived 7½p to 51p having fallen about 60 per cent in the past 12 months

More misery at Molins

THE tale of woe at Molins, the maker of machinery for the tobacco and packaging industries, continued yesterday when, just ten weeks into its new financial year, the company said that it was unlikely that it would be able to match last year's operating profit levels. Reporting losses for 1998 of £6.6 million after restructuring charges of £15.8 million, Michael Orr, chairman, said that with little demand for tobacco machinery, 1999 operating profits would be less than £9.1 million.

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Börjesson: bolt-on deals

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Travis Perkins says housing will pick up

TRAVIS PERKINS, the build-er's merchant, expects buyers to return to the new homes though there are signs that buyers are returning." Travis Perkins lifted 1998 market this year (Saeed Shah

Tony Travis, the company's chairman, said: "Most builders expect to see a rising trend in new house sales. The reduction in interest rates that began last October has not yet

restored consumer confidence

pre-tax profits by 22 per cent, to £60.5 million, on sales up by 12.1 per cent, to £623 million. The year's dividend is 12.1p, up from 11.0p. The shares rose 22½p to 466p.

The company's operating margin rose to 9.9 per cent, from 8.5 per cent, last year.

Cattles to expand on high street

By Robert Lea

CATTLES, the consumer credit group, is aiming to expand on the high street, taking the place of the retreating retail banks, in an attempt to produce 20 per cent growth this year to match last year's prof-its rise.

The Yorkshire company is expanding from its roots in weekly door-to-door credit collecting, by opening its Welcome branches at a rate of one a week to try to build a nationwide network over five years.

In 1998 the company made pre-tax profits of £47.7 million against £39.9 million excluding prior-year exceptional gains. Eddie Cran, chief execu-tive, said: "Cattles is a growth story. The market expected growth of 15 to 20 per cent. That is what we delivered and that is what we are aiming for

this year."
Earnings per share came in at 24.3p against 27.8p. Total receivables in the year grew by more than 40 per cent to £487 million, while provisions for bad debt rose from £18 million to £28 million.

The company is offering one new share for each one held in a bonus issue to halve the share price, in a bid to make the stock more marketable. The shares have raced up from about 200p two years ago to more than 800p last month. Yesterday they were unchanged at 760p. The final dividend of 7.9p (6.55p) makes a total of 11.8p. a rise for the year of 20 per cent.

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and at the registered office of the Company in England;

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12 March 1999

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or other does this of venture to compre-the sweaty ritual of or the arcane joys of high first But a saga like the Bastle of they Stadium is far too entire to be left dangling between straps and bean-counters. In its chief features will be harpely ognised by arrs page readers monstrous waste of lonery rea clash of giant egos, quango- a; ently statled by headless charge government complicates; managerial mishaps on a 70 scale in closed all the architecture. scale. In short, all the making first-class national humilings

first-class national humiliation. Besides which, it is an array is Mess around with Wembley sum and Arena and you have stroke, jeopardised two of the few venues in London capathousing the biggest pop and shiz events, from Madorina to ney on Ice and the Three Trace. London seems destined to reluctant host to one public bing fiasco eveny decade, doesn't reluctant host to one puties a ing fiason every decade, does In the Sevennes it was the B can Centre: in the Eighties the ish Library. Both were appar constructed in a surreal puties universe where budgets and to

Time tra

ometimes it seems 25 though every public rently shelters some kind of the burnal aimed at righting the wrongs of the past, rooting exthe wrongdoers and offering to the nation's rankest secrets healthy doses of what Jerry Springer might call "the ans-septic of sunlight". Not to be left behind by this national examination of con-ries on Hugh I conard's have

science. Hugh Leonard's lazera venture on to the Abbey stages uses the playwright's by-xxxx familiar dramatic technique ci overlapping the past and present to offer glimpses not of blue remembered hills, but of

The audience is forced to ha the ground running as they are unceremoniously planted in a field in rural Limerical where a portenious meeting of three women is taking plant around an ancient store.

Their meeting is extractionary since one of the trac. Car (Karen Ardiff), has been dead for many years but appears as a youth, while another, her

a youth, while another, her daughter Triona (Catherine Walsh), is still living in 1965 Ireland, a time when "no child was too young to offend the mother of God".

The third woman, Cat's 37-year-old grand-daughter Kate (Ingrid Craigle), a novelist who is careful always to include love in the title of her books, fives in the Ireland of the present day and therefore wins the dubious honour of filing everybody in on "the way things are".

things are".

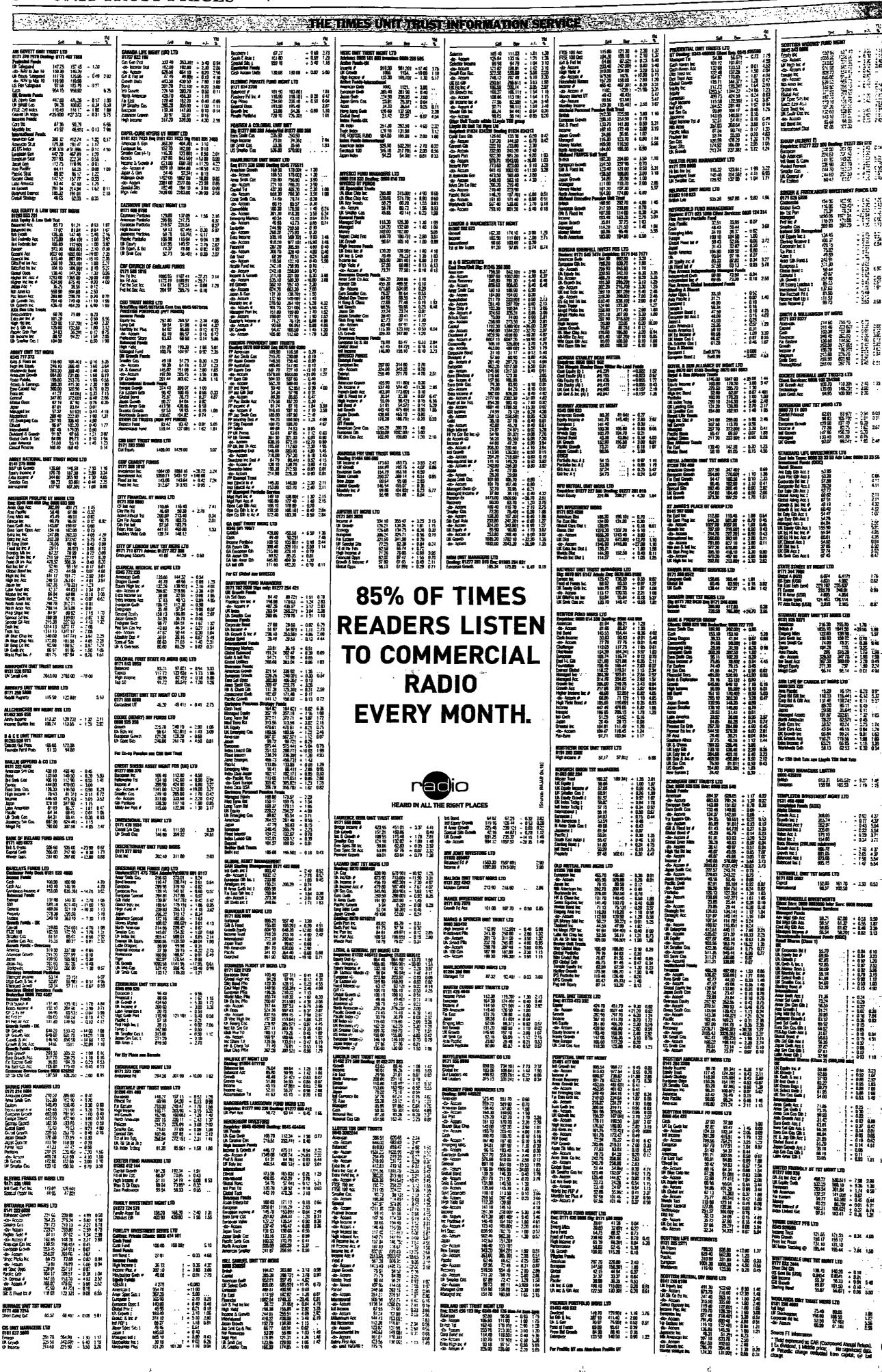
Dark secrets that turn out to be neither as dark nor as secret as they seemed bubble to the surface as Leonard company, and contracts. Indeed pares and contrasts Ireland

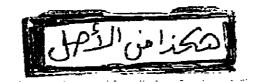
n another decade or two Matthew Warchus's production its fiftieth cast change may look askance at colleague have not yet done time playing Serge. Yvan or all three of the riven apart by Serge's purchas all-white painting for a price lent to what bumbling Yvan earyear. Yasmina Reza's play will come the 21st century's Masse though only in terms of imperior through only in terms of imperior Christopher Hampton's cristate translation takes wing and with a passion seldom to be in Mrs Christie: a description of wife as "wearily malicious", stance, creates her in front of the

stance, creates her in front of a before one of her tiresome ges mockingly imitated.

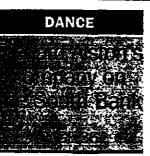
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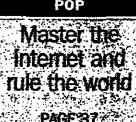








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ot often does this column venture to comprehend venture to comprehend the sweaty ritual of sport or the arcane joys of high finance. But a saga like the Battle of Wem-bley Stadium is far too enthraling to be left dangling between jock-straps and bean-counters. Indeed, its chief features will be happily recognised by arts page readers - ie, monstrous waste of lottery money; clash of giant egos; quangos apparently staffed by headless chickens; government complacency; and managerial mishaps on a Titanic scale. In short, all the makings of a

first-class national humiliation. Besides which, it is an arts story. Mess around with Wembley Stadium and Arena and you have, at a stroke, jeopardised two of the very few venues in London capable of housing the biggest pop and show-biz events, from Madonna to Disney on Ice and the Three Tenors.

London seems destined to play reluctant host to one public building fiasco every decade, doesn't it? In the Seventies it was the Barbican Centre; in the Eighties the British Library. Both were apparently constructed in a surreal parallel

PAGE 37

Sick as a parrot over ref's Wembley decision

lines passeth all understanding. Then, in the Nineties, the amazing parade of prantalls (and indeed prats) accompanying the Royal Opera House redevelopment awoke memories of Norman Wisdom in older observers and the Teletubbies in younger ones. And now comes the Battle of Wernbley Stadium, which seems certain to add greatly to the hilarity of nations in the first decade of the new century.

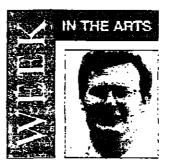
It all started when England de-

cided that it wanted to stage the football World Cup in 2006. No, let me rephrase that. It started when the Government decided that it wanted England to stage the World Cup. Cynical friends offer the disgraceful hypothesis that this is part of a deep laid plan to get La-bour re-elected for the third time on a surge of feel-good patriotic fervour - but we know, of course, that such base calculations never enter the saintly realm of Tonyland. More pertinent, surely, is the Football Association's wacky belief

that, having ditched a New Age re-incarnationist as national footie coach, and replaced him with a man who says he will do the job on alternate Wednesday afternoons (weather permitting), England can actually win the damn trophy.

Anyway, in order to bring the

competition to England. Wembley Stadium needs to be rebuilt. No-body argues about that. Its amusingly medieval lavatories and corrugated-iron tea-bars may have been objects of wonder in 1923, but they hardly conform to present-day notions of comfort and joy. So a £120 million lottery grant, the biggest for any project except the dreaded Dome, will help to pay for the purchase and demolition of the stadium, and the erection of a new £200 million 80,000-seat venue in its place. How do you spend £200 million on building a new football ground, where the biggest features are fresh air and grass? The answer is that where lottery cash is involved, anything's possible!



RICHARD MORRISON

Then life's little complications started to kick in. The FA, which decided (along with the Sports Coun-cil) to purchase the stadium for £103 million and do the redevelopment itself, was rocked by a bizarre loans scandal and the Hoddle debacle. Then Brent council suddenly discovered a hitherto well-hidden preservationist zeal, and kicked up a siink when it learnt that Wernbley's "world-famous" twin towers would be demolished in the redevelopment. Naturally a gaggle of tweedy heritage "guardians" jumped on the bandwagon to save the wretched concrete lumps. Meanwhile the board of Wern-

bley plc (which owns the stadium and its satellite arenas and exhibition halls) became binerly divided. Three non-executive directors, led by a colourful 75-year-old boxing promoter, Jarvis Astaire, wanted to pull out of the FA deal altogether, arguing persuasively that Wembley is such a ghastly mess of inadequate car parks, dismal walkways and hopeless transport links that it needs redevelopment as a whole, not with the stadium removed and separately owned.

The rebel directors tried to stoke up shareholder discontent by encouraging rival bids for Wembley, first from a British company, Enic, then recently from the giant American promoters, SFX. The latter is a particularly intriguing outfit. With

a revenue of \$1.3 billion from 12,000 evenus last year. SFX could well afford to offer a good price for Wembley and turn it into Europe's foremost entertainment complex.

This boardroom conflict quickly developed into a thrilling slanging march between Astaire and the excitable Ken Bates, chairman of Chelsea Football Club, who is leading the FA's bid. Bates accuses Astaire of imperilling the whole World Cup 2006 dream. Astaire responds by calling the Chelsea gaffer "Chairman Mao Tse-Bates". Now, now, girls; it's only a game.

ut of course it isn't. It's big business. Yesterday the Wembley shareholders voted to press ahead with selling the stadium to the FA. That decision will be hailed as a triumph for the "patriots": after all, the way is now clear for England to bid for the World Cup. But patriotism in this case does seem to be the last refuge of the megalomaniac — and there

are a good many of them in the foot-ball world. The fact is that the Wembley complex hosts just a handful of football matches a year. whereas it stages dozens of big showbiz events every month. To redevelop the stadium, under the control of a football quango whose recent managerial record may charitably be called appalling, without reference to Wembley's showbiz programme and without solving the massive logistical problems of reaching this disastrously cramped corner of North London - that is a recipe for chaos.

What can be done? Well, when this Government created the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, it made much of how this grouping would allow many-sided challenges to be tackled "holistically". If Chris Smith is going to put that fine ideal into practice, the time is now and the place is Wembley. It's far more than a "field of dreams" for muddied oafs; it is a vital square mile in the nation's cultural life. Lavish £300 million on it by all means, but don't end up with a white elephant in a wasteland. London doesn't need another of

Time travellers

S ometimes it seems as though every restriction rently shelters some kind of tribunal aimed at righting the wrongs of the past, rooting out the wrongdoers and offering to the nation's rankest secrets healthy doses of what Jerry Springer might call "the anti-septic of sunlight". Not to be left behind by this national examination of con-

science, Hugh Leonard's latest venture on to the Abbey stage uses the playwright's by-now familiar dramatic technique of overlapping the past and present to offer glimpses not of blue remembered hills, but of a century of infamy.

The audience is forced to hit

the ground running as they are unceremoniously planted in a field in rural Limerick where a portentous meeting of three women is taking place around an ancient stone.

Their meeting is extraordinary since one of the trio. Cat for many years but appears as a youth, while another, her ughter Triona (Catherine Walsh), is still living in 1960s Ireland, a time when "no child was too young to offend the mother of God".

The third woman. Cars 37-year-old grand-daughter Kate (Ingrid Craigie), a novelist who is careful always to include love in the title of her books, lives in the Ireland of the present day and therefore wins the dubious honour of filling everybody in on "the way

things are".

Dark secrets that turn out to be neither as dark nor as secret as they seemed bubble to the surface as Leonard compares and contrasts Ireland

n another decade or two, when Matthew Warchus's production is

on its fiftieth cast change, actors

may look askance at colleagues who

though only in terms of longevity.

The present cast is the tenth since the play arrived in London two and a half

mockingly imitated.

past and present. But even be-fore his heroines get around to quoting Larkin at each other, a familiar tone pervades the piece, a mixture of ridicule and jealousy provoked by the manners and freedoms of the modern world. Leonard can see, without much strain, that something has been gained over the old order in which single pregnant women were all but incarcerated, their children stolen from them. But he cannot bring himself to celebrate the new because there is simply too much around that

merits his disdain.

Karen Ardiff pushes her weak role to its limits, giving through her boisterous physicality all the little substance the production has, while Cath-



er really escapes the flatness of her role. Kate, the character who ostensibly lives in the present day, seems as dated as any of her ancestors, full of Seventies real about her independence as she explains that "these days" someone you are in a relationship with is called your partner.

When Triona inquires in return if there is a business meeting going on, it gives only the meekest hint of the standard of the play's humour. Like too much of Love in the Title, Leonard's quips feel as though they were buried in a time capsule several years ago and only re-cently exhumed.



LUKE CLANCY Femme fatale: Amanda Harris as one of her four combustible women in Take the Fire

ford, and plainly he loves his 20 square

feet of white paint -

A paler shade of white this time

have not yet done time playing Marc, Serge, Yvan or all three of the friends riven apart by Serge's purchase of an all-white painting for a price equiva-lent to what bumbling Yvan earns in a years ago, and though the play's shocks, set pieces and year. Yasmina Reza's play will have become the 21st century's Mousetrap -Christopher Hampton's crisply literate translation takes wing and stings central argument still with a passion seldom to be found in one of the better com-Mrs Christie: a description of Marc's wife as "wearily malicious", for instance, creates her in front of us, even before one of her tiresome gestures is

binations of actors. In different productions our sympathies switch between the actors at different points, but few people are likely to find themselves staying for long on the side of Danny Webb's Serge.

Of course he has every right to buy

though Reza, univise ly, never gives him the chance to reveal why this arouses such devotion. But when he first shows Marc his purchase his face wears a silently smug, thin smile of achievement that defines Serge's personality as ill-

natured Until we learn from Marc that their

long friendship has been, from his point of view, that of mentor and pupil, the probability of these two ever having cared for each other seems minute. Tom Mannion's Marc clearly sees Serge's new love as treachery, but his attempts to be tolerant are convincing as well as comic, seething beneath the

Gary Olsen's Yvan earned a round of applause for the account of his ghastly wedding arrangements, but he should look to the clarity of his speaking here and in his collapse into sobs before his implacable ex-friends.

The silent olive-eating scene is as elegant and funny as ever but the matter of the play, not art but friendship, rests on frailer foundations this time

JEREMY KINGSTON without emitting half a conso-

Fanning the French flames

average 10,000 words a day to men's 4,000. If Cocteau's one-act Bel Indif*férent* is to be believed, that is an insulting understatement. I did not count the words that poured from the protagonist, a nightclub performer based on Edith Piaf and played by Amanda Harris, but it was an unstoppable torrent of hurt rage. Since the man in the case remained silent throughout, the score over a full day would

probably be 50,000 to nil.

Ravishing Indifference, as
Helen Lea and Andrew Wale have translated the title, is the fourth and longest segment of the 75-minute evening called Take the Fire. And why that name? Because Cocteau was once asked what he would take from his house if it were burning and replied that he'd take the fire. That is the sort of remark with which French intellectuals have always irritated plainer folk, but it serves to point out that the evening's content is not exactly ice-cold.

All four of the women played by Harris are pretty combustible, and all are living or reliving moments of maximum ignition. In the opening monologue, which involves a young criminal who has dis-guised himself as a woman to evade the flics, Harris commits murder with a gun. In the second, which is written in verse, she is a maid who kills her mistress with poison, and in the third she is a gamblaholic who mainly damages herself. But though these pieces give Harris the chance to show us that she can smoulder and singe, they are pretty thin beside Ravishing Indifference.

True, this is hardly rich, complex stuff, but only radical feminists and newer-than-new men will deny that there is some truth in its simplicities. He is not home by 2am. She makes a furtive, apologetic call to one of his friends, who fails to give him a proper alibi. Then in he walks, puts on a dressing-gown, reads Le Figaro, falls asleep, gets up, dresses and goes out again; and all



nant. Meanwhile she delivers a monologue that moves from martyred reproach through insults and violent threats to protestations of love and humiliating apologies.

Cocteau wrote this robust if predictable piece after Piaf told him of her troubles with

Paul Meurise, and Piaf proceeded herself to perform it in public. Did she, i wonder, justify Lea and Wale's title by making her audiences feel that coals of fire were pouring from her innards and being heaped on her lover's head? That is the challenge; and, good actress though she is, Harris does not quite rise to it. She is pained and pleadingly middle-class, not tough and abjectly, defiantly ugly: an Amanda, not a Piaf.

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ARTS

MUSIC

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Guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargle

LONDON

GROSS INDECENCY: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde: Michael Pen-Ineas of Uscar water. Nachael Pen-vington plays Wilde, with William Hoyl-and and Cilve Francis as counsel for and against. in Molses Kaufman's play. Gleigud (0171-494 5085). Previews Irom tonight, 7.45pm. Opens Mer 22.

MAHLER AND VIENNA: The second MLEH AND VIENDA: The second of Christoph won Dohrányi's ses dedicated to the music of sara Mahler reaches its climas with enformance by the Philharmonia of composer's epic Ninth Symphony. Nature Continents Festival Hall (0171-960 4242). Tomorrow, 7.30pm. (S)

IN PERFECT HARMONY: An abundance of vocal harmonies can be enjoyed when the world-tamous Swingle Singers are jouned by members from the barbershop fratemity for an evening of glorious a coppella music. Barblean (071-638 8931).
Tomorrow, 7.30pm. 6

ELSEWHERE

BRIMINGHAM: The Towards the Millen-mum lestival continues its survey of the 1980s. Here the City of Birming-ham Symphony Orchestra under Simon Ratite reposits last week's London concert of Lufoslawski's lynical Third Symphony tollowed by pieces by Tolemitsu and Adams. Symphony Hall (0121-212 3333). Tomorrow, 7pm. (5)

CAMBRIDGE: As a conclusion to the University Music Faculty's celebrations of Cambridge composers of the past 5 years. Stephen Claobury conducts a performance of Alexander Goeth's mystical cantais. The Death of Moses. The evening also marks Goeth's departure as professor of music here.



Alexander Goehr is celebrated in Cambridge

Trinity College Chapel (01223 503333), Tomorrow, 7,30cm.

EXETER: Mike Alfreds directs Philip Osment's Buried Alfred, about a photo-journalist emotionally traumatised since childhood. Latest for the Mad-ness & Method buring rep company. Northcolt Theater (ISSP 48/49/5)

GLASGOW: Walter Weller conduct GLASGOW: Welter Welter conducts his last concert with the Rayal Scottish National Orchestra this season. Soprano Ruth Falcon joins the meestro and orchestra for Reforal Strasss's Four Last Sorgo. Bratuns, Smetana and Dvorát also feetare. Royal Concert Hall (0141-287 5511). Tonight, 7.30pm. (§)

NEW WEST END SHOWS

Jeremy Kingston's choice of theatre showing in London House full, returns only ■ Some seats available □ Seats at all prices

SLAVA'S SNOWSHOW: The excellent Russian clown and mime artist Slava Polunin returns, with new material, new clowns as well as his unforgettable finale. Piccadilly Theatre (0171-369 1734).

MACBETH: Rulus Sewell and Sally Dector play the superstitious thane and his missis in John Crowley's production. Queens, W1 (0171-494 5041).

☐ GAMBLERS: Tam Williams plays Li Gamisters: tam winams pia the seemingly invincible hero in Gogol's thrilling play, directed by Charlie Wood for a King's Head/Double Edge co-production. BAC (0171-223 2223); (5)

☐ HAMLET: Rupert Wickham plays the hero in Christopher Geelan's production, opening this relaunched theatre. Greenwich (5) (0870 840 1111).

☐ TAKE THE FIRE: Four monologues for women (gambler, maid, prostitute, desperate lover) by Jean Cocteau, performed by Amanda

Harris. Paul Carrington's direction weaves them together. See review, page 35. Lyric Studio (0181-741 8701). 🔊 SPEER: Klaus Maria Brandauer directs and plays the title role of Hitler's master architect in Esther Vier's drama. With Sven Eric Bechtoff Almeida (0171-359 4404).

SHOCKHEADED PETER: The Jacques's falsetio screech. Lyric (0181-741 8701).

☐ DEPENDING THE CAVEMAN I DEFEMBLY THE CAVERACE WAS End debut in Rob Becker's new comedy, tracing the origins of the man/woman difference back to the caves.

Apollo (0171-494 5070).

COPENHAGEN: Heisenberg mysteriously calls on Niels Bohr in wartime Denmark. Michael Frayn's intelligent play transfers to the West End. Michael Blakemore directs.

Music at his feet

chard Alston thrives on music. It feeds his soul, and can help to set his choreography soaring. Alston's company sailed into London this week on three small but balmy gusts of live music. The performances are part of a national tour that demonstrates why, after 30 years, Alston remains one of our top artistic resources.

In 1994's Movements From Petrushka, set to Stravinksy's pared-down piano version of his full orchestral score, the instrument is centre stage. So is

DANCE

Richard Alston Queen Elizabeth Hall

 yet also abstractly through dance.

Alston's inspiration is both Fokine's 1911 ballet about a pitiable puppet-pariah, and the equally tragic later life of Vaslav Nijinsky, originator of the ballet's title role. Christopher Tudor gave the central figure a troubled power. A string of fluid solo actions perfectly betray an outcast's anguish: a quick tumble, rolling shoulder and juddering head. a flicking of the arms, some elbow-clutching crouches. How ironic that all this neurotic physical behavious should stem from such a strong, stable-looking specimen as Tu-

His tortured isolation was underlined by the high-spirited partnerings of three couples. Here the weighted inflec-tions of Russian folk dance are sewn into Alston's familiar style, complete with signature windmill-armed leaps. The music capers on the edge of mania, and Alston rides it without becoming its slave.

In last year's Waltzes in Disorder, the cue came from Brahms's Liebeslieder-Walzer Op 52, for four singers and two pianists. The lush loops and lacings of Alston's writing might initially justify those who accuse him of sexlessness. Then suddenly, with a clasp of a neck and a stroked cheek, the dance is doing more than

t wasn't quite the way the party

poppers went missing after Kiri

Te Kanawa's cancellation at the week-

der way in earnest at the Barbican.

affection as early as the 1960s for his championship of English composers:

and it was Vaughan Williams's Fifth

Symphony, breathing the rarefied air

of Bunyan's Pilgrint's Progress, which

This was a performance of subtle.

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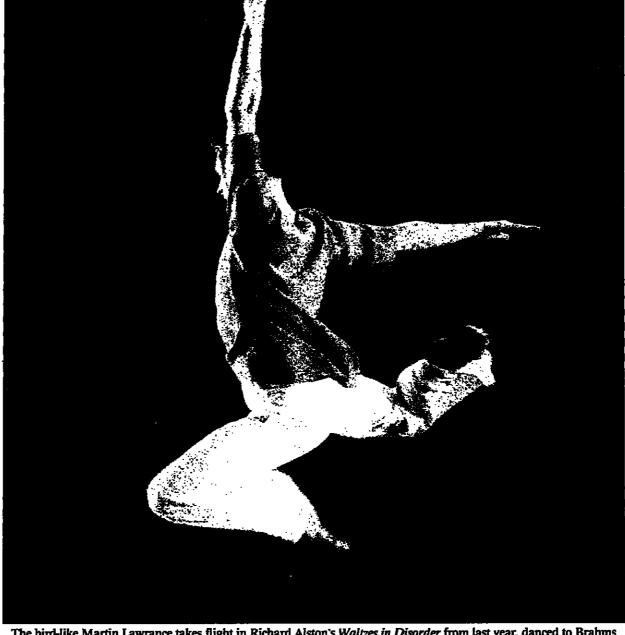
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IN MICHAEL FRAN

quietly spoken authority. When the ma-

terial is as insubstantial as the modally

Previn chose for the occasion.



The bird-like Martin Lawrance takes flight in Richard Alston's Waltzes in Disorder from last year, danced to Brahms

skimming across a surface of whipped-cream Romanticism. Two men — Tudor and the delibird-like Martin Lawrance - establish an intimate and enchanted bond that can't be shaken off.

an't be shaken off. result as just another of Al-The programme's newest ston's attractive ensemble piec-

work exposes some of Alston's limitations. The impetus of Slow Airs Almost All of Them is Mozart's arrangements of several Bach fugues for string trio. It's hard not to regard the

es - all subdued, lyrical athleticism, a melding of mostly solos and duets so smooth, so lacking in traction that they roll on to, and slip out of, your Yet Alston's craft as an hon-

consciousness as you watch. est-to-goodness maker of steps

gence about bodies in motion. DONALD HUTERA

transcends mere noodling

around. Although he rarely turns up the heat to full blast.

the work communicates a pas-

sionate and mature intelli-

don Symphony Chorus, whose admiraevery opem that

John Mark Ainsley was Spenser's heroic Merry Cuckoo and. later, created quite wonderfully the ecstatic vision within Henry Vaughan's Waters Above, its spiritual showers dancing in the bows of the violins.

The violas were equally sensitive partners to Roberta Alexander in Herrick's Welcome Maids of Honour. while Felicity Lott enjoyed robust repartee with the excellent Finchley Children's Music Group in The Driving

A slightly stooping Previn seemed physically dwarfed by his tall colleagues as he took a final bow; but these self-effacing performances had undeniable and memorable stature.

HILARY FINCH

prayers

■ CHARLES LLOYD Voice in the Night

(ECM 1674 559 445- 2) ALTHOUGH Charles Lloyd has now made six ECM al-burns since returning to recording in 1989, this is the first to feature the tenor player fronting an entirely US-based band, and he has chosen it

Lloyd's association with Billy Higgins goes back 40 years. and the drummer's ability to maintain the subtlest of pulses, through light brushwork on his skins and the delicate propulsiveness of his cymbal playing, fits Lloyd's contemplative, almost prayerful ap-proach perfectly. Bassist Dave Holland provides the supple energy at the band's core, and guitarist John Abercrombie takes full advantage of the generous amount of space he's granted with a series of perfectly judged, swooningly graceful

It is Lloyd himself, though

NEW JAZZ ALBUMS

with his familiar warbling rapturously meditative sound. who sets the album's tone. whether he is reinterpreting old material — Island Blues. Forest Flower, exploring originals, or taking a fresh look at Billy Strayhorn's A Flower is a Lovesome Thing.

■ RUSSELL GUNN Ethnomusicology Volume 1

(Atlantic 7567 83165-2) AS ITS title suggests, this latest release from the US trumpeter Russell Gunn - his first for a major label -- concerns it-self with, in his words, "the study of black music on all levels ... the sounds coming out of apartment windows and cars driving by. I have to incorporate those things into what I

Consequently, straightahead jazz trumpet of the sort Gunn provides for Wynton Marsalis's Lincoln Centre Jazz Orchestra jostles with the hiphop and rolling funk he plays with Branford Marsalis's Buckshot LeFonque; a Woody Shaw composition is preceded by a brief scratching solo by DJ Apollo, and samples, of everything from Run DMC to statements from Charles Mingus and Wynton himself, crop up throughout the album.

The result, courtesy of the skill and enthusiasm of the musicians Gunn has assembled (who include reedsman Gregory Tardy and trombon-ist Andre Heyward), not to mention his own brightly inventive trumpet and flugelhorn playing, is an intriguing and immediately attractive - tour d'horizon of contemporary New York sounds.

CHRIS PARKER

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FILMS ON GENERAL RELEASE

James Christopher's choice of the latest movies

NEW RELEASES

PATCH ADAMS (12): Robin Will puts the comic stitches in this absurd medical movie about a doctor who wants to cure the world with laughter Director Tom Shadyac extracts an

PLEASANTVILLE (12): Ingenious spoof of American family values. Two dysfunctional 1990s teenagers get sucked into a squeaky-clean 1950s TV soap. Great performances from Tobey Maguire. Jeff Daniels and Reesa Witherspoon.

CENTRAL STATION (15): Walter Salles's Brazilian road movie creates fabulous chemistry between a young boy in search of his identity and a cynical ox-teacher in search of her cynical ex-teacher in search of he soul. Fernanda Montenegro and SCHIZOPOLIS (18): Steven Soder-bergh's experimental satire on corpobergh's experimental satire on corpo-rate arctiety is utter gibbensh, with camera angles and dialogue to match.

CURRENT

BELOYEO (15): Oprah Winkey is surprisingly powerful as a runawa surprisingly powerful as a runaway slave haunted by pollengeists, lynch mobs, and a dead daughter. Jonathan Demme's overlong film fails, how-ever, to get inside the festering heart of Tont Monison's Pullizer Prize winner. With Demmy Glover, Thandie Newton, and Kimberly Elise.

THE 39 STEPS (U): Hitchcock's w take on Buchen's ricolno varn is full smooth bachelor deahes across Scot-tand pursued by police and ruthless spies. A romance and good hand-cuff-ing rarely feel more than a frame away. THE THIN RED LINE (15): A glittering THE THIN NED LINE (19): A greating cast of American soldiers lose their sanity in the South Pacific during the Second World War. Terrence Malicking artistic masterplace stars Sean Petrit, Jim Caviezal, Ben Chepfin, Nick Note.

YOU'VE GOT MAIL (PG): Bullet-proof romentic blockbuster with Tom Hanfer and Meg Ryan who fall in love on the internet. Water/Granter Nors Februs TITANIC TOWN (15): Julie Wakers escale as a pugnacious Catholic housewile in this grim review of Northern Ireland's Troubles circa 1972. Roger Michell directs.

AFFLICTION (15) Paul Schrader's nermac numer (no). Paul Schrader's brunning portreit of a Insistrated small-lown cop Nick Note and James Cobum put in powerful performances, as father and son caught in a cycle of male violunce.

Subtly celebrating

end. But three days later André Pre-Preludio of this symvin's 70th birthday celebrations got unphony, then questions Earnest was the word. For it was of texture, balance with the measured tread, retrospective and pacing become cast of mind and visionary perspective all important. Previn of a fellow 70-year-old that Previn and the London Symphony Orchestra began the evening. Previn won national

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MUST (NO TOMORROW)

drew perfectly poised playing from the LSO, anticipating the exquisitely placed string chords at the start of the slow Romanza. Half-remembered, far-off things they seemed, haunted by the shade of Tallis, and finding their apotheosis in a final "alleluia" glimpsed through a golden arch

of horns and trumpets. Britten, no less keenly championed by Previn, was to find literary soulinflected melody which dominates the

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mates in different corners of the 17th

Vaughan Williams. And the 14 settings of poetry, from Spenser to Auden, which compose the Spring Sym-

phony seem to lift what is quintessentially English up and over into the wider European musical community for the first time. Previn's performance with the LSO

made us hear those pungent, exotic sonorities of the opening anew. The "thousand-coloured light" of the spring sun. as evoked in an anonymous 16th-century poem, was refracted through the strong and variegated voices of the Lon-

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POP ALBUMS

13 cheers for Blur

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NEW POP ALBUMS: Blur tempt fate

and the fickle taste of the public on

the experimental 13, and emerge

triumphant, says David Sinclair

BLŲR

(Food CD 29 £14.99) WHO dares wins", a motto designed to inspire elite soldiers, could equally well have been coined to describe Blur's progress through the 1990s. Having made their mark as sad, strung-out indie-kids, they had the wit to embrace the brash, laddish certainties of Britpop, and then the nerve to administer a savage bite to the hand feeding them via 1997's Blur, a wilfully outre collection which confounded all expectations by becoming

their bestselling album yet.
They have now thrown all remaining caution to the wind, cutting the ties with their longstanding producer Stephen Street, abandoning any lingering musical inhibitions and tempting fate with the very title of their sixth alburn, 13. The results so far include a single (the pseudo-gospel singalong, Tender) that was even playlisted on Radio 2. a "Blur day" on Radio I and blanket approval in all quarters of the press. As far as having your cake and eating it goes, it doesn't get much chewier than this.

Produced by William Orbit (who co-produced Madonna's Ray of Light), the album is every bit as adventurous as Blur - and then some. The horribly distorted guitar sound on Bugman, the sonic hailstorm that gradually overhauls 1992, the long, discordant climax of Trimm Trabb and the fragmented, falsetto vocals in Battle suggest a range of impeccable leftfield influences ranging from Iggy Pop and early Roxy Music to Tortoise and the Cocteau Twins. The strange little codas, tacked on like musical appendices to numbers such as BLUREMI. Coffee 8 TV and Caramel contribute to a sense of mild disorientation, and if it weren't for the digital

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Jeff Beck;

OK Top 40: Radio 1, Sunday, 4pm

display you would quickly lose track of which song is which.

Constantly surprising and extraordinarily inventive, this is an album that is initially easier to admire than to fall in love with, although the wonderfully loose, hip hop groove and wonky guitar scrawl of Trailerpark provides an instant buzz, its mantra-like lyric "I lost my girl to the Rolling Stones" drawing attention to a problem which seems to be on the increase.

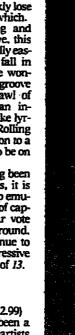
While Oasis have long been compared to the Beatles, it is Blur who have ended up emulating the Beatles trick of capturing both the popular vote and the creative high ground. a feat which they continue to pull off with the impressive scope and sheer daring of 13.

Central Reservation

(Heavenly HVNLP22 £12.99) ALTHOUGH she has been a fellow traveller of dance artists such as William Orbit and the Chemical Brothers, Beth Orton reverts almost entirely to folk singer-songwriter mode for Central Reservation. With violins and cellos lending support to her acoustic guitar and austere vocal tone, numbers such as Blood Red River and Devil's Song have the chilly air of a chamber recital, while the more relaxed moods of etest Decline (with Dr John on piano) and Pass in Time (featuring Terry Callier on harmony vocals) tend towards the soporific.

The best tracks are Stolen Car, with its revving slide guitar solo by Ben Harper and the harder, hip hop groove of Stars All Seem to Weep, but neither song is typical. "It's like catching snow on your tongue/Can't pin this butterfly down," she sings, and the charm of this album proves

compulsive listening.
Proudly flagging a range of



equally elusive.

(Reprise 9362-47282 +2 £13.99) HAVING promised so much with their 1997 album, Being There, Wilco return with Summerteeth, a mildly disappoint-ing follow-up which, although assembled with the same scrupulous attention to detail as Being There, lacks the stormy passion and casual swagger that made that album such

standinmyway (Again) — Jeff Tweedy sings in a worldweary voice of sleepless nights, flawed relationships and the trials of growing old.

"I printed my name on the back of a leaf/And I watched it float away", he sings in Via Chicago, a song full of dark imagery and melancholy intent that disintegrates into a Neil Young-inspired guitar 1960s influences - from the firestorm as, admittedly not

harmonies of Nothing sgonna-

ca Boys-style

Lennonesque plod of My Dar- for the only time, a burst of the most indolent, Jeff Beck takes

JEFF BECK Who Else! (Epic 493041 £14.99)

STILL the most accomplished rock guitarist this country has ever produced, and still the

> CDs reviewed in The Times can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345 023498

ful career with Who Else! (apparently not a reference to Rory Bremner), his first alburn of new material since Jeff

Magical mystery tourists: while Oasis have long been compared to the Beatles, it is Blur who have emulated the Beatles' trick of capturing both the popular vote and the creative high ground

Beck's Guitar Shop in 1989. While hardly a part of the contemporary scene, Beck is alert to recent developments. and makes a good fist of marrying his explosive playing style to the fast, Prodigy-inspired techno rhythm tracks of What Mama Said and Psycho But his haughty tone, hurwide bends are heard to best effect on the slower, more conventional Brush With the Blues, a live recording that suggests he is on better form than ever.

He has left it too late to salvage his commercial standing, but if the dance revolution really has re-tuned people's ears to the delights of instrumental music, perhaps the rave gener-ation will at least grant this alburn the respect it deserves.

Caitlin Moran is unwell.

The cyberspace cowboys ride out

Downloading from the Internet will spell the end of music as

we know it

t is nine o'clock on a Wednesday night. At a studio in London the electronica duo Coldcut are performing a session of music accompanied by visuals which goes out live on the Internet at www.piratetv.net. At the same time, a man in Cornwall tunes into an American alternative rock radio station called 97X, which serves the Cincinnati area from an adjoining university town in Ohio. He does this by tapping www.woxy97x.com into his computer service pro-

Meanwhile, in a village in northern Sweden, 100 miles from the nearest record shop. a woman accesses Boxman (www.boxman.com), an Internet retailer that claims to have cornered a 10 per cent share of the Scandinavian market in just two years, and orders the new CD by American underground band Sleater-Kinney. It will arrive through her letter-

 box by the weekend. At the University of Victoria in Canada, an engineering student in search of a track from an old Aerosmith album does not even have to wait that long. Using MP3 technology. he downloads the song from one of the many illegal "juke-box" web sites which offer a wide variety of music, free of charge, as a "public service" to Internet users.

You don't have to understand how all this is done to realise that monumental changes are afoot in the music indus-



"If all music is instantly pirated how are we going to stay in business?" says Matt Black

try. "People think it's years away," says marketing consultant Jon Webster. "It's not. It's happening right now." Consumers, it seems, can-

not lose. Once the new technology has been invested in and mastered, a whole world of music is placed at their fingertips. No more trudging to the local record shop or wandering round the megastore in search of an album that may be out of stock or even deleted. And, once you know where to look in cyberspace, a lot of music can be acquired for the cost of a phone call.

But the benefits of these extraordinary developments may be less obvious to the copyright owners of the songs themselves. "It is a threat," Webster says. "People are downloading illegal digital copies of albums that have been posted on the Internet. That's theft. And in many cases it is the artists who are losing out even more than the record companies." "All the major record compa-

nies see the Internet as a threat," says Andy Saunders, head of communications of the independent label Creation, whose boss Alan McGee was one of the first to predict that computer technology would radically alter the structure of the music business. "We wanted to put our own stuff on an MP3 site," Saunders says. "But Sony | which has a 49 per cent stake in Creation asked us not to. Our attitude is that it's the Wild West out there, and we want to keep an open mind about it." Even Matt Black of Coldcut.

who has been "something of an evangelist for DIY digital culture", has misgivings about the spread of MP3 technology. "I'm in an ambivalent situation," he says. "I'm pleased that more people are making their own music and that there are alternative forms of distribution, but as an artist and owner of my own record label [Ninja Tune] I make a living out of selling music. If all mu-

in business?" But if the artists and record companies are feeling vulnerable, then what of the high street retailers? There will always be artists making the music and record companies which will devise a way of marketing it for a profit. But if

sic can become instantly pirat-

ed and that becomes accepta-ble, how are we going to stay

rect from the source, so to speak, presumably it would be the end of record shops as we know them. Jonathan Rees, the chart, rock & pop manager of HMV

UK, speaks for many when he says he believes the likelihood of such a radical development is remote. "I don't think downloading and Internet retailing will ever take off to that degree," Rees says. "People will always enjoy the process of buying music from a record store."

don't embrace it," says Elspeth Thomson, marketing director of Tower Records, which is preparing to open a string of "express" stores in which customers will be able to choose and order the music they want to buy from an online music database. The system will also include a feature called Tower Unflogged, which will give un-signed bands the chance to post samples of their music on the website and thereby gain xposure and feedback. Perhaps this is the future, a

system whereby retailers, artists and record companies work together to make the most of the expanded opportunities which the Internet has to offer. Jimmy Devlin, MD of Globalfulfillment.com, a rapidly growing Internet retail facilitator, believes so.

"New technology is always greeted with suspicion by the record industry," he says. "Home taping didn't kill music, and video didn't kill the movies. They tapped into a new market it's the same with the internet and online retailing. It's a value-add situation."

DAVID SINCLAIR

◆ Coldcut play the Forum, London NW5 (0171-284 2300) neat Friday. The show can be viewed live



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Everyday voices of Ulster

A unique radio series is revealing a legacy of pain, says its producer John O'Neill

undreds of people affected by the Troubles in Northern Ireland, whose tales have never previously been told, are describing their experiences in an ambitious series of interviews for Radio Ulster.

Late last year, as plans for the series fell into shape, Anna Carragher, head of broadcast at BBC Northern Ireland, rightly described the Legacy project as "a voice for the voiceless".

For producers, the early discussions on any broadcast can be daunting. The Legacy project was more intimidating than most. As co-producers. Elizabeth Kelly and I faced the task of putting together 365 interviews, each edited down to two minutes, for broadcast daily throughout 1999 in a prime-time slot on Radio Ulster. It was clear from the start that

we had to be open-minded and allow each speaker to put forward their thoughts on the events. This required sensitivity - there was no doubt that some of the material would upset sections of our audience: in Northern Ireland what is a victim to one group is often seen as a legitimate target by the other. It became obvious that our impartiality would be severely tested.

Last autumn Elizabeth and I. along with line manager Kieran Hegarty, set about working out how to present such stories. We needed to reflect all shades of opinion and experiences. In Northern Ireland there is hardly a person who has not been affected by the Troubles, so we began with the people we knew, explored contacts and talked to community and victim support groups. We set up a contact line and encouraged people to come forward with stories. We made it



Every day this year John O'Neill and his Radio Ulster team are broadcasting the tales of people affected by the Troubles

'WE HEARD THE EXPLOSION NEAR US — IT WAS DEFINITELY A BOMB'

been ... the posts had been warped and badly twisted. So I decided to go into the field

and see was anyone in the field. So, there

was a priest from a monastery near us - he

was already coming through the gate beside

what I can describe as just ... what was

me with a huge flash lantern. We come on

left of a human being. But I knew by the legs that it was my father. Then we come on

what was my niece. Now she wasn't as bad

as my father, but she was also dead. We had

clear that we were not seeking politicians, campaigners or anyone who could be thought of as having a "public profile". In the early days I spoke to several callers who had suffered but had made contributions to the media. I ex-

"This is on November 23, 1988. We were sit-

ting in the house on a Wednesday night when a bomb went off — we heard the explo-sion near us. It was definitely a bomb. My

father had been seen near the barracks

around that time and I got a wee bit worried

and started inquiring, did anyone see my

father's car coming up the street or near the

barracks. But no one seemed to have seen it.

into the field opposite the barracks had

"So, they had noticed the gate leading

plained to one woman that her appearances in the media had given her a profile and that while I in no way wished to demean the deaths in her family, I would not be recording her. "I understand," she replied. "You want to talk to

people who haven't had a chance to speak. That's OK." January I loomed large on the calendar and we had set ourselves a target of five interviews

of how it worked. I flew to England to record soldiers who had served here; Elizabeth talked to victims' groups. We travelled hundreds of miles each week. The material shocked both of us.

discussed who was going to tell my brother-

in-law about his daughter. So it was left to

me to go and tell him, and it was one of the

hardest things that ever I have done in my

life - to tell a man that his daughter was

dead. They talk about people being shot or

bombs going off here and there. Well, on tel-

evision, every time I see one of them, I still

relive the night that my father and niece was killed. I still relive that night."

Anonymous broadcast on March 2.

land, its people and their prob-

get as the public had no concept

lems. I was wrong.

I am stunned by the detail of what has happened to some people I interview: the savagery that has been inflicted on them: the farmer who reluctantly left the land after two gun attacks; the grief of a woman whose mother 25 years ago left to go shopping and died in a bomb blast; the fam-

> instead of being shot? I was taught to maintain a "professional detachment" from the detail of my work, but it's difficult as the enormity of the wrongdoing pours out. But what astounds me most is the forgiveness and the willingness to understand and move on. Legacy has be-come a small part of that process.

ily who want to know why their

son could not have been arrested

Some people had never spoken so frankly to a stranger, for others it was the first time that they had

got to grips with the enormity of

what had happened to them. We

found ourselves in an unusual role as we talked to people who

wanted someone to explain why it had all happened. I now carry

the telephone numbers of be-reavement counsellors.

We went on air and waited for

the reaction - it didn't take long.

The first call complained of bias

towards the security forces. I explained that the caller might

wait a few months and then re-

flect on our coverage. We now get a steady positive feedback. The

latest was a call from the man who co-ordinated the Omagh

trauma team. He felt that Legacy

the details given to her. I identified with her feelings. I spent ten years doing social work with young people who had problems

relating to authority, and who were often easy targets for recruit-

ment by paramilitary groups. I had assumed that I had a de-

tailed knowledge of Northern Ire-

he most recent member of our team. Aislinn

Duffield, described to

me her shock at some of

was a positive contribution.

• Legacy is broadcast daily at 8.58am on Radio Ulster.

L!ve and let die?

TWO journals cast doubt on the future of Live TV, Mirror group's cable channel. Marketing reports that Live's losses are running at £9 million "and with predators circling, it seems only a matter of time before Mirror Group pulls the plug...
Signs are that it won't be around to broadcast New Millennium Topless Darts." In Broadcast the headline is "End of the Line for Live?, but the magazine weighs in with good news for the beleagured channel: the first sale of one of its programmes. Lie Detector, to ITV.

■ TONY SCOULLER, the marketing director of the drinks firm UDV, sparked a lively debate in a speech doubting the value of advertising spirits on TV. Marketing Week reports that, since the voluntary ban on spirits advertising was lifted five years ago, the hard stuff has commanded a dwin-dling share of the drinks market. Last year £42 million was spent by liquor firms on TV ads, but sales still fell. The magazine



says that Scouller "may have dealt the glamorous world of TV advertising a blow from which it will be hard to recover".

■ CHANGING FACES: Chris Mann. sacked as editor of News Direct 97.3FM, to sue London News Radio, alleging unfair dismissal: Joe Murphy from The Mail on Sunday to be political editor of The Sun-day Telegraph (Press Gazette). John Coyle splits from old PR partner Brian Basham to found Clerkenwell Communications with Emma Kane (PR Week). Tony Cox quits as creative director of BMP DDB to take senior role in creative department at Abbott Mead Vickers BBDO (Campaign).

■ GETTING THE BUSINESS: Shell launches £20 million campaign using J Walter Thompson and the PR firm Fishburn Hedges (Marketing). Acacia Expeditions engages the Travel PR Company to handle media relations after six of its clients were killed in Uganda (PR Week).

MICHAEL LEAPMAN

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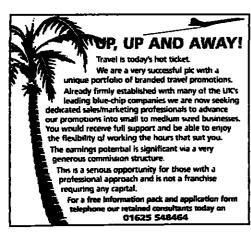
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Service of the servic



'Shows for the family are hard to find'

Claudia Rosencrantz brought us 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire?' What else is up her sleeve, asks Carol Midgley

his should have been a week of unqualified tri-umph for Claudia Rosencrantz, ITV's controller of entertainment. Who Wants to be a Millionaire?, the addictive TV game show has just started its third series and achieved record audiences of nearly 19 million.

But rather than basking in glory, ITV's press office was coping with the embarrassing revelation that a contestant who won £125,000 had actually answered one of his questions incorrectly. The show's producers failed to notice but hundreds of viewers telephoned ITV and national newspapers to register the blunder. While it may have slightly

dulled the shine of the show's suc-cess, the incident unlikely to wipe the smiles off the faces of ITV executives. The programme, nounced as immoral for offer-

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BYLE N DIVERT VARKETHE

ing £1 million as a quiz prize, is proving to be ITV's golden goose. A recent show pulled in 18.8 million "live" viewers, a figure expected to rise to 19.3 million when video recordings are taken into account. If so, it will break the record held by a 1977 edition of Mastermind, seen by 19.1 million. It seems all the more remarkable then that the programme idea sat on Rosencrantz's desk for two years before it was put into produc-

1996, ITV management felt that there were too many game shows. IIV was enjoying success with family shows such as Wheel of Fortune and Play Your Cards Right.
But Rosencrantz, convinced

that the show would be a hit, persuaded its production company, Celador, to be patient. When David Liddiment took over as the director of programmes in late 1997 she pitched the idea again. Liddiment commissioned it imme-diately. The show, in which contestants answer 15 general knowledge questions to accumulate El million, was originally titled Cash Mountain. Rosencrantz disliked this name and it became Who Wants to be a Millionaire?, partly because she likes the song of the same name. "I knew instinctively it would work and David has given us a brief to go with

what we believe in," she says. Rosencrantz began her career at The Sunday Telegraph magazine and Elle, and later met David Montgomery, then Editor of News of the

World, at a party. They were the only sober peo-ple there, and Montgomery offered her a job on his paper's magaentertainment department. This

spawned an eight-year working relationship with Barry Humphries, alias Dame Edna Everage. She went on to work with Chris Evans on Don't Forget Your Toothbrush and did an 18-month stint in the BBC factual department before returning to ITV in late 1995.

After three years in the job, Rosencrantz, 39, who commissioned such shows as The Shane of Truth (dubbed sadistic because it parades prizes in front of children, then snatches them away if their families fail to meet the challenge) is accustomed to hearing herself labelled the queen of the "tacky" Saturday night game show. But she says tacky is not necessarily a dirty word and that those who curl their lips at "un-



cynical" shows that appeal to a mass audience are elitist.

The hardest thing is finding programmes that the entire family can watch together," she says. "Millionaire is a straightforhow the audience has reacted. People say Moment of Truth is cruel to the children who appear but if you talk to the kids, they are not really upset. We have already commissioned another series."

Now that ITV has promised advertisers that is going upmarket and will draw in a wider and younger audience, her challenge

will be to find shows that fit that profile but remain the traditional Saturday evening TV "event".

Rosencrantz, who has a ninemonth-old daughter. Lola, with her husband, the actor and writer for knowing when shows are on their last legs. It was her decision to axe Beadle's About, the much vilified hoax show, and she recently announced the end of Gladiators, one of the big success stories of the Nineties. Meanwhile, the BBC is dispensing with Noel's House Party, another veteran of

the Saturday evening schedule.

lifespan, you must know when to call it a day," she says, "Gladiators has been brilliant, as has House Party, but people tire of things. Audiences are very televierate these days; you can't

underestimate that." This raises the question of whether the audience will stick with Millionaire if nobody scoops the £1 million jackpot. So far the most won is £125,000. But public confidence in the show seems not to have been dented by this week's glitch (contestant Tony Kennedy gave 24 as the min-

imum number of strokes with which a tennis player can win a set. He was told he was right, although the correct answer is 12). "It was a genuine mistake and we apologised for it," Rosen-crantz says. "There was no soul-

searching on our part over whether the contestant should keep the money - it was our mistake. But the checking procedures have been reinforced as a result." Whether its success continues

remains to be seen. "I think it has a way to go yet. The public certainly isn't bored by it. Even I can't stand to miss a show."

The bucks stop here

Hollywood studios want cheaper stars, says Boyd Farrow

he average cost of making and mar-keting a Hollywood movie is now a staggering \$78 million (about £52 million), according to the Motion Picture Association of America. While the bill for producing a typical Hollywood film fell by 1.4 per cent to \$52.7 million in 1998, the cost of marketing and distributing it soared, leaping by 13 per cent to \$25.3 million.

The slight dip in production costs is attributed to the studios being in "one of their periodic fits of cost control". Another reason is that major stars and directors are agreeing to forgo their initial fees in return for a slice of the box-office spoils. Tom Hanks and Steven Spielberg, for example, may earn \$80 million between them from their cut of Saving Private Ryan ticket sales, eating into the studio's profits.

But Hollywood's belt-tightening clearly has not extended to movie marketing, the cost of which has escalated by 44 per cent over the past five years. Such expenditure on hype reflects the fact that many of the 250 or so studio films released each year earn 40 per cent of their American revenue during their first weekend. If they fail to ignite, they are removed swiftly to make way for other films. During the past few years, the studios have relied on a handful of big stars to "open" a picture — and big-star sal-aries have rocketed. In 1994, two days before Ace Ventura:

Pet Detective opened, Time Warnerowned New Line Cinema refused to pay the film's unknown lead. Jim Carrey, \$1 million to star in another project. Dumb & Dumber. Two weeks later, when Ace Ventura proved a hit, New Line was forced to shell out \$7 million for Carrey to star in the same movie. His fee for Ace Ventura was \$300,000. In the next 12 months, price competition for top names went berserk.

n Monday, Bill Mechanic, the chairman of Fox Entertainment. told film convention delegates that the stars who now command \$20 million fees or 20 per cent of the box-office gross are pricing themselves out of the market. He said that all studios were slashing movie budgets and salaries, pointing to 20th Century Fox's use of such unknowns (at the time) as Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet for Titanic.

Mechanic's observations are borne out by the poor performance of big-star, bigbudget titles such as Lethal Weapon 4 and The Avengers in 1998. Disney's most profitable film last year was the \$19 million comedy The Waterboy, starring the unknown Adam Sandler, which grossed almost \$100 million. At the same time a spate of cheap and cheerful horror films, cast with teen TV idols, were among the most profitable films for years. Not surprisingly, Holly-wood is now falling over itself to produce

low-budget, youth-orientated films.

But, of course, today's youth heroes will be tomorrow's mega-earners: Leonardo DiCaprio is pocketing \$20 million to star in The Beach for Mechanic's studio.

nce you're hooked on the Internet, surfing can become a compulsion — and if you're a journalist, you can't stop brooding on its implications for newspapers. Are there profound les-

sons we ought to be learning? So I offer no apology for returning to subject of the Net, especially in the week of the Budget, which I tried to follow from the online editions of Britain's national newspapers. Could I get an Evening Me? 1 signed on to the Press Asso-

ciation, The Times. The Guardian, The Electronic Telegraph. the Financial Times, The Independent. The Express, The Mirror and This Is Money, the Daily Mail and The Mail on Sunday sites. So far as I could detect, The Express. The Mirror and The Independent had not attempted to run live reports but the rest competed to tell the story as it happened, offering regular news bites as Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, was speaking, except that

The Electronic Telegraph wait- and ed until the Budget was over. Some of the papers were less than helpful in signalling to a novice where to find the Budget report. The Times had two cellor Budget links, including on-

nue, Treasury and Customs and Excise sites, but I got to just one, and then only because its editor had told me where to look. I could not get any news from This Is Money until 6pm. even though it was running news flashes from 4pm. And I never cracked the FT site - almost certainly because it was

ward links to the Inland Reve-

in heavy demand. I have, however, been getting its budget e-mails for the past two days. So the easiest to find and use as an online evening newspa-

sites. Both were news running news flashes from the moment the Chanstarted speaking, with PA

also offering a live video link. By 6pm The Guardian had also published a commentary on the Budget by Anthony Browne, The Observer's economics correspondent. The Times was updating until 2am and The Mail on Sunday was

running tax tables from Price Waterhouse by 7pm. Yet the find of the day was the outstanding BBC website, which beat them all — hardly surprising, given that it has 100 staff against four for PA and The

the Net. I had assembled an Evening Me by 6pm and well before The Nine O'Clock News I had an A4 Net "newspaper" with as much information as the next morning's papers, including the full text of Brown's speech.

To all of which, one of my responses is: so what? For nothing in my Evening Me could match the sheer joy of spreading out the newspapers next morning - so much easier than searching through them all on the Net — and seeing on

ferent voices of the British press. The Sun, with its front page announcing "Everyone's A Winner - Guaranteed Prize for Every

Reader" or The Mirror, with "Flash Gordon - He's helped every woman, every man, every child, every one of us". The Daily Mail accused Brown of a "tragic mis-judgement" by new Labour on marriage and the family: in The Guardian Polly Toynbee described him as the "chil-

dren's Chancellor". Without endlessly clicking a mouse, I could revel in the commentators - Anatole Kaletsky and Simon Jenkins in The Times, Hugo Young in The Guardian, Andrew Marr

and Charles Whelan in The Express, or Paul Routledge in The Mirror and obtain a quick sense of Brown's obvious politi-

cal triumph. With every new technological development, journalists seek some profound or threatening effect on newspapers. I am not sure there are any. Yet newspapers obviously can't rival the internet for speed, and the Net appeals to a young constituency who aren't natural newspaper readers and whom editors are desperately trying to reach. So they are going to have to improve and speed up their act and think more imaginatively if they want to compete online with such news organisations as the BBC. That also means selling star columnists on the Net and link-

ing online newspapers direct

to newspaper newsrooms. Net readers, as Simon Waldman of The Guardian says, are promiscuous and return only to sites that deliver.

Newspapers obviously cannot compete with the sheer volume of information on the Net — but they can, as The Times now does, publish links to the Web from news and features. So one major role for

The Net: so much, so fast — so what? information. I want to be complacent about the Net but I can't. On Tuesday, the FT had a record

the newspaper, as access to

the Net becomes universal.

will be to help readers to na-

number of new registrations and its site and The Guardian's were visited by more than 50,000 readers, while PA recorded a 300 per cent increase in page impressions. Something significant is going on out there in cyberspace but no-body yet knows what to do about it.

Yet even by fumbling round per for this novice were the PA From Goldeneye to golden Eyre

IF YOU tuned into Who Wants to be a Millionaire?, A Touch of Frost or Goldeneye this week, you are doing your bit to aid ITV's ruthless drive to reverse its fortunes, causing painful gasps among competitors.

When Richard Eyre, chief execu-tive of the ITV network, set a target of 39 per cent of peak evening view-ing 12 months ago for 1999 he was called brave to his face, mad behind his back. Now, he tells me, the running total so far this year is a 40.4 per cent share with a majority of new series in the top ten. And that is before the impact of shifting News at Ten. Adverts for the next Director-General of the BBC go out this weekend. Eyre is near the top of the list.

■ "IT'S like Bank Holiday every night," lamented a senior BBCl executive as he watched the channel's share collapse nightly. The ending of News at Ten, clearing four hours for prime-time entertainment, represents a major shift in the ground down to banishing news. BBCI's performance last Sunday, a shattering reduction in share to 21 per cent, has led to heart-searching over whether Peter Salmon, controller of BBCl. should have insisted that

The Lakes run on Sundays. Lots of swear words had to be cut to make it suitable for a Sabbath, which explains some strange "out of lip synch" sequences. It wasn't just bad dubbing.

■ I WATCHED the at 6.30pm with Baroness Thatcher on one side, and Sir Denis on the other, at a lavish party thrown by ITN. They were unimpressed with the opening ten-minute photo opportunity given to Gordon Brown and wandered off with Michael Portillo. It struck me that Labour grandees were in short supply. The explana- as pointless.

rules of British TV. But it is not all tion? The Government remains ran- AMID all the publicity given to kled by the Independent Television Carlton's purchase of Planet 24 from Commission's (TTC) decision to allow News at Ten to go. The ITC's standing as regulator of all UK com-mercial television is not high either.

tive. He joined arch-Tory

launch of the new ITV Evening News I am told that that is why Lord Holme of Cheltenham, the former Lib-Dem Northern Ireland spokesman. and trusted Blairite "gofer", has become deputy chairman of the ITC. Government Ministers are also raising eyebrows over the ITC's current consultation to see whether Internet content can be regulated. It is seen

Sir Bob Geldof and Lord Alli, note that it is the first and certainly not the last deal by Steven Cain, Carlton Communication's new chief execu-

> Michael Green's TV company in January, after serving as marketing director for Asda. Green has a reputation to live down -- as being hard to work for. Insiders gasp that they have seen him defer to Cain during meetings. Will this part-

nership flourish or founder? ■ WHAT is the mystery that accom-

panies any Big Fight Night on Sky? Why, the time of the event! Adverts for this weekend's Holyfield/Lewis encounter abound, but don't say when the main action from Madison Square Garden is likely to be. Sky is always curiously coy on this

point. The reason, of course, is that it thinks it will put off viewers if it says fans will have to stay up until 5am. for example. But this is downright inconvenient when accurate information would allow fans to choose between going bed and getting up early or staying up. I declare an interest. My husband buys all Sky's payper-view boxing events. I'm fed up with the way it ruins Sunday. The rules of PPV television differ from free TV. More information please -

■ TREVOR McDONALD assures me that ITV's new current affairs show. Tonight, will now start on April 9 - and he's fronting it. But there is tension between ITN and Granada, which insists that the show belongs to the Manchesterbased company. It wants to launch with some big exclusive stories in

boxing fans are highly motivated.

maggiebrown_media@btinternet.com



THE TIMES & DILLONS FORUM in association with The Word prism (1215) to various processing as well than the

Times readers are invited to a rare evening with John le Carré, one of Britain's bestselling novelists, on Sunday, March 28, at 7pm.

Introduced by the Editor of The Times, Peter Stothard, the internationally acclaimed author will talk about his life and work, and read from his latest novel Single & Single. If you would like to ask John le Carré a question, please e-mail johnlecarre@the-times.co.uk. For more details visit The Times/le carré website at www.the-times.co.uk/lecarre.html.

The event, which forms part of The Word literary festival, will be held at the LSE Peacock theatre, Portugal Street, off Kingsway, London WC1. Tickets cost £9 and can be booked on 0171-863 8222

THE TIMES • DILLONS • FORUM

College Bures

And now . . . the ex-girlfriend of the boyfriend of the wife of the boyfriend of Anthea











The chain of lovers that the tabloids find irresistible: clockwise from left, Carissa Mitchell, Anthony Constanduros, Della Bovey, Anthea Turner and Grant Bovey

Bernard Shaw in The Devil's Disciple, "is the only way in which a man can become famous without ability."

This week, however, The Mirror has shown us that, in the modern age, there is another, far simpler method. On Tuesday it devoted the whole of page three to a story about Carissa Mitchell, a former girlfriend of Della Bovey's new

Della Bovey, you will remember, is the estranged wife The enduring obsession with the love lives of Anthea Turner and Grant Bovey is becoming absurd, says **Carol Midgley**

of Grant Bovey, the new boy-friend of the television presenter Anthea Turner.

Just to recap, then, that's a whole page of a national daily newspaper taken up by the former girlfriend of the new boyfriend of the estranged wife of the new boyfriend of the current presenter of the Wish You Were Here holiday programme. Confused? Well,

The tenacity of newspapers in wringing the very last drops from a juicy story is legendary. But Fleet Street's current obsession with the Turner/ Bovey story has shown to what absurd lengths the pursuit of the modern celebrity

When Turner first announced that she and Bovey, a father of three, were leaving their spouses to set up home together, there were those who questioned whether this was really a story worthy of frontpage splash news. Whether one agrees or not, how relevant can it be now 15 months down the line and four stages

The Mirror was far from be ing the only newspaper which was prepared to invest time and money on seeking out An-

thony Constanduros, the new "toyboy lover" of Mrs Bovey. Last week a pack of journalists descended on Constanduros's home in West Sussex, some of whom admitted to being privately bemused at the ferocity with which the newsdesks

were chasing the story. Constanduros was so taken aback that he asked family friend Harry Conroy, a media adviser and former leader of the National Union of Journalists, to manage the situation.

Conroy, who did not ask for fee, used the Press Association to put out a photograph of Constanduros to stop the media chase. It was accompanied by a statement pleading for privacy as well as a reminder of the privacy clause in the Press Complaints Commission Code.

The situation was ridiculous," says Conroy. "I'm a journalist but I just couldn't see the story. Anthony is an ordinary guy but they were offering members of his family — even his grandmother - sums of £20,000 to talk about him. It went on for days. He was shocked. He could not believe how much interest there was in him, never mind his former girlfriend."

For now, the story has died down, and Carissa Mitchell, who was able to tell us riveting details like she and Constanduros used to "go to local pubs or stay in and cook", has had her

But at least she cannot be accused of doing a kiss-and-sell. As is expected of celebrities these days, Mitchell asked instead that a donation be made

Little voice making big waves

tle man chasing an impossible dream succeeds. But Noah Samara, an Ethiopian-American, is getting close. It was surely wildly implausible for a private citizen to suggest that you could revolutionise communications and entertainment in the Third World by sending up three privatesector satellites — one each for Africa and the Middle East, Latin America and Asia — devoted to radio.

It has taken him nearly ten years but, last Friday, anyone jogging through St James's Park in Central London could have seen a small, excited group of people pointing an unusuallooking radio to-

wards the sky. Coming in loud and clear from the first World-Space satellite, launched in Nodigital radio direct from Johannesburg. The satellite

is aimed at the African continent but is perthat the signal

can be picked up in Europe as well. Two more satellites will be launched later this year as part of a project worth more than \$1 billion.

The success of Samara. hased in Washington DC, is a tribute to dogged determination. But formidable problems remain — the most obvious of all is to persuade people to buy the special radio receivers which have built-in satellite antenna. Financial realities — the cost of the receivers in particular - have forced Samara to drift far from his original concept: to provide communications for the information-deprived poor.

With receivers costing between \$250 and \$300, the initial target audience is affluent South Africans in remote places and the oil-rich hoped that early sales will drive down the cost of the receivers so that a wider audience can afford them. Samara's goal is 500,000 receivers in use by the end of the first year of service. His phil-anthropic goals have not been abandoned entirely. About 5 per cent of the capacity of the satellites will be available to groups such as the World Health Organisation to broadcast educational material.

Samara will struggle in his drive to turn World-Space into a serious business but the consequences. should he succeed, could be profound. The receivers will soon he able to receive vast amounts of digital data, including the text of newspapers, which can be downloaded in seconds.

First indications, apart from the obvithat viewers will get considerable choice at opm

and 6.30pm in the news agendas on offer from the BBC Monday. first day of the new regime, the BBC offered stories such as the right to roam in

the countryside, the problems with breast implants and the Northern Ireland deadline extended.

ITV carried stories such as a less-than-totally revealing interview with the Chancellor, Sir Bernard Ingham's contretemps with his neighbour, and a special on teenage female smokers.

A clue to what was going on came from Stewart Purvis, the chief executive of Independent Television News. interviewed for Channel 4's And Finally programme: "The dynamic is really news attracting the kind of audiences that advertisers want to buy, and the channel controllers sitting there saying If I want those kind of advertisers, I need this kind of content. I need the news to deliver this kind of audience."

of course, to the founding fathers of television news who believed that you had a

public service." indeed it is.

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CHANGING TIMES

Give News 24 a chance

whose book My Life In The Silver Screen accountably missed the bestsellers list, tells us that News 24 has "hardly any" viewers. Sir Paul Fox, the former Managing Director of BBC Televi-sion, writes in The Daily Telegraph (circulation just over a million) that BBC News 24 (watched by more than five million) is "unseen". And Sir Marmaduke Hussey, who takes some of the credit for launching Radio 5 Live as a round-the-clock channel for news and sport, thinks that what is right for radio is a step

too far for television. The sins attributed to News 24 by its critics are legion. The birth of the channel is claimed to be responsible for everything from budget cuts on The World Tonight to the loss of

In fact, the most potent charge against the BBC is not that it launched News 24 but that it was late into a market which is vital for its future. The argument is simple. In homes with just the terrestrial channels, BBC News is watched for 1.49 hours per person per week but in house-holds with cable and satellite that figure falls to 0.76 hours.

There is also a qualitative perception: multi-channel viewers are far less likely to think of the BBC as the first place they would turn to for fast, authoritative, breaking news. In those circumstances, the BBC had a clear choice. Either it could engage with the fact that audiences want news in a form and at a time convenient to them - or it could ding to the line that 1pm, 6pm and 9pm are the only times for the national news experience. It would, I believe, have been the greater arrogance if the BBC had stuck to a table d'hôte

menu in an age of choice. There is an argument that Sky News was there already, so there was no need for the BBC to wade in. I like Sky but I don't like the idea that it Critics of the 'unseen' channel say it is bleeding the BBC dry. But Roger Mosey argues that they are misinformed



Gavin Esler, BBC News 24's evening anchorman

should be the only provider of 24-hour television news. I am equally opposed to the cable operators, mine included, who are dropping Sky News in fa-vour of News 24. Choice should mean exactly that, and we want News 24 to win on its own merits and not because it is the only show in town.

And we believe that it is winning. Each week 5.1 million people watch News 24 either on its overnight BBCI service or via cable and digital satellite. In digital homes it has rapidly established itself as one of the most watched channels. The commentators who pre-

fix "News 24" with the adjective "unwatched" would have to say the same for Sky if real viewing data were their source. That would be a nonsense, too, because audiences for continuous news channels are low at some times of the

day. It is true of the American market as well as the UK. The power is with the consumer, and they may choose to watch at 9am or at 11-30pm. The aim is not to win millions of viewers at one time but to encourage people to use the channel over a period.

o is it the editorial failures of News 24 that provoke the criticism? It is true there were rough edges early on, and we paid a price for being too ambitious with technology. We had a choice, though. The BBC of the past would have steamed ahead with old working practices at a higher cost but News 24 em-braces the digital era and is willing to push the boundaries of broadcasting.

That is not, however, at the expense of quality. I defy any-one who saw the joint News 24

and BBC World coverage of the funeral of King Hussein of Jordan to say that the new style of extended live broadcasting undermines our reputation. John Simpson and Brian Hanrahan led continuous global coverage, which made CNN look second-rate; from Northern Ireland to the sacking of Glenn Hoddle, News 24 has offered viewers direct access to stories as they unfold.

Alastair Campbell has a

point about the virtue of the new services: with the decline of parliamentary reporting and the rise of the soundbite, there is a gain for democracy in allowing voters to be exposed to opinion-formers with arguments worth developing.

And can we afford it? As Ian Hargreaves, former Editor of The Independent, remarked: You could buy a year of News 24 and the whole of the BBC's internet service for less than the cost of Radio 3." Hard to see then how the channel could be responsible for bleed-

ing the corporation dry.

News 24 is a channel for the future. That may sound like managerial bluster, so let me make three predictions. One: News 24 will have even more viewers in a year's time than it does now. Few channels can predict this, but we can. Two: it will enjoy the same change in perception as Radio 5 Live. What started as a derided shotgun marriage of news and sport is now Sony Station of the Year, recognised for pioneering a fresh approach to speech broadcasting. Three: within the next decade News 24 will become the first choice for BBC News, guaranteeing information when you want it

in the digital era. It is time to end the muddled thinking and misinformation about the channel. The creativity of the new generation seems to me infinitely preferable to the old British disease of carping from the sidelines.

Roger Mosey is Acting Director, Continuous News BBC

Little voice making big waves

Get me a Yemeni chief on the phone

Chit show researchers have a had time, but so do those on Totay, says Henry Bonsu

issued P45s to three members of staff and a freelancer from The Vanea Show for using bogus guest including fake feuding sister: and fraudulent fatfetishts. The sackings, after a BBC ivestigation, will heighten the fear and loathing amon researchers working on sue programmes.

Onoriend of mine who toils on a val show has seen her worklad rocket and morale plumet since her bosses insisted on new safeguards again hoaxers. The pressure to sto-fakes slipping through is nowo great that she hardly eats osleeps.

Likmany others, I imagine, the work on pro-grames such as Kilroy (BBCland Trisha (ITV), she is serious considering her futureRoger Bolton, the presentenf Channel 4's Right to Reply, has already spoken abouthe ridiculous demands on theesearchers working for daily swnmarket shows. But, as he just know, even on the most emarket programmes. what iexpected of a researcher camover between the sublime, ne ridiculous and the downight dangerous.

Dung a spate of kidnap-nings sy Yemeni tribesmen four yers ago, I was working on Raio 4's Today: I remember gigling nervously when a product asked me to get an Englis-speaking Yemeni tribal lead on the end of a satellite place for 7.30am the followinglay. He wasn't joking.

20 E

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- 22

If I lid known then what I know ow, perhaps 1 could have booked the leader throug the agency that supplied *Tisha* and The Vanessa Show. Using traditional research methods, after four hours had to tell the producer thatve might have to make do withhe Yemeni Ambassador to ondon. He gave me the

look that every researcher dreads: "You've failed me." Fear of that look drives most ambitious researchers the extra mile to "deliver" for their immediate boss, even if it means using slightly underhand means. I was so desperate to persuade the former Ulster MP Bernadette McAliskey to appear on Today that I casually mentioned the fact that I was black. Using the line from The Commitments. The Irish are the blacks of Europe", certainly does not appear in the producer's guidelines, but it worked. Mrs McAliskey, who was furious with the BBC over her treatment by another programme, agreed to be interviewed by us

the following morning. The look can also push you take nerve-racking risks. During the Parkhurst prison breakout a few years ago, a man telephoned claiming that he was Norman Parker, a former prison inmate and author of Parkhurst Tales. He said the escapers had obviously got their idea from his book about life inside. I had no idea whether he was telling the truth but I took down his details and excitedly passed them on to the duty editor. "Is he genuine?" I was

asked. "Oh, yes," I said, hoping, not having even seen the book. It was at the fag end of a 12-hour shift so there our conversation ended, both of us tacitly assuming that somehow it would get checked — by someone else. A few hours later I listened in terror as Parker gave the presenters an exhilarating account of his time in Parkhurst. What if he was a fake? Thankfully he was genuine. I got a pat on the back, and watched proudly as he did a tour of programmes, including the One O'Clock News.

More often than not, researchers who slip up during outlandish quests lack guid-



A genuine guest gives his opinion of cross-dressers on Trisha. Researchers are under pressure to weed out hoaxers

ance from producers, who can be strangely reluctant to pass on the benefits of their experience. Researchers ask few questions, fearing they will be deemed "not up to the job". Because there is little or no formal training for the role — it is assumed that you can do it if you have a degree -- most peo-ple stumble on blindly, praying that one of their hundreds of speculative calls will yield the desired interviewee

Some years ago I was researching a programme on the Animal Liberation Front for a now defunct current affairs programme. The producer begged me to use my "on the ground" contacts to find a cell of the ALF from which we could interview someone. As any researcher knows, no rule-book can help. I had to plead with journalists who had previously covered the story, stake out suspected hangouts of radical vegans and give my home telephone number to anybody remotely connected with animal rights.

After two weeks of frustration I rang an old university friend who had apparently become an eco-warrior. She knew a hunt saboteur who, after some persuading, took my producer, reporter and myself to an Oxfordshire wood to meet three individuals in balaclavas and army fatigues.

ut after returning to the office in triumph, I was grilled by the programme editor, who balked at the idea of giving them airtime.

To our dismay he told my producer and me that the ALF could not be interviewed on the ground that they were "terrorists who shouldn't be given the oxygen of publicity". On another occasion I was kinesia", an unpleasant sideeffect of some antipsychotic drugs - a job any researcher could do by consulting the British National Formulary. But my reporter wanted to create a tabloid splash by getting a celebrity to confess that they or a relative, had been treated with these drugs - and had been afflicted tardive dyskinesia. So off went the speculative

asked to look into "tardive dys-

letters to high-profile pop stars and actors — all of whom were reputed to have either suffered from mental illness, stress, alcoholism or drug addiction, or to have it in the family. I had no idea whether they had even been treated with antipsychotics, let alone gone on to suffer from TD, but that didn't matter. It was a wild goose chase - one that probably caused the subjects some offence - but to the lowly

I realised that this was no onger the world for me when I found myself in Birmingham one night sitting in the car of a man whose nickname was "Killer". He told me wild stories about gun-carrying and extreme violence that made him ideal for a BBC on violence. But "Killer" was ruled out by a senior producer

researcher, even the most un-

hinged orders are still orders.

dangerous he was. Perhaps it would have helped if I had returned to the office with a bullet-ridden flak jacket or a sawn-off shotgun bearing his fingerprints.

because he no longer carried a

gun and I could not prove how

So next time you pity the poor downmarket researcher. spare a thought for their upmarket cousin who is probably just as close to a nervous breakdown - and a P45.

Monica at the heart of a new plot

Nothing sells like a scandal -TV catches on to Washington's dramatic potential for ratings. Report by Susan Karlin

A e may think that enough of Monica Lewinsky, but LA thinks not. Her essence will live on in Hollywood, thanks to a new TV series expected to hit the US next autumn. It's called DC (it was originally called Interns) and it's about young Washington DC interns. Despite the sim-

ilarities. The WB Network. one of America's newer ter-restrial channels, is tiptoeing around the obvious comparisons. "We want to stay away from the Monica thing," says a spokesman. "It's not a thing we want to promote."

The ensemble comes Dick Wolf, creator of Law & Order, the Emmywinning legal and crime drama, and the film writer John August. The WB has ordered a pilot and is expected to announce a series pick-up in

the spring.

DC features luscious twentysomethings this is Hollywood, after all - embark-

ing on low-level jobs in Washington. While Ms Lewinsky isn't expected to make an appearance herself, there will be plenty of sexual intrigue. "Isn't that what good-

looking 23 and 24-year-olds do?" Wolf joked with reporters at a recent Television Critics Association (TCA) press tour in California. Despite scandal-laced political films such as Wag

the Dog, TV has tended to shy away from Washington as a backdrop. Shadowing a real scandal in a TV show is tricky as it risks following an already oversaturated media event and often pales beside a real-life counter-part. After the O.J. Simpson trial, Steven Bochco, creator of the TV police series NYPD Blue, attempted Murder One, a drama covering a year-long murder trial, which was hugely popular in Britain but lasted only a season in the US.

DC will focus less on polities and more on the ideals. moral choices, and their consequences, of young Senate aides, lobbyists, TV news producers and Supreme Court clerks.

"It's not party-orientated," Wolf told Daily Variety, an entertainment trade magazine. "I hope to get through 110 episodes without ever using the words Republican or Democrat. It's no more a political show than LA Law was a legal

Meanwhile, political scan-

dal also inspired a two-part episode of Law & There will Order on NBC this spring. In it. be plenty a Kenneth Starr like prosecutor of sexual York detectives in a plot that intrigue evokes images of the circumstancwithout es surrounding of Vince Foster, Monica the White House

> the discovery of a body in New York that looks like a suicide, then isn't, and is tied to the White House, says Wolf. "There is a special prosecutor who wants information that a detective doesn't think he has a right to i wouldn't say that it evolved from the White House scandal, but it's in the national consciousness.

We take the headlines not

the body copy."

lawyer.

If DC is a success. The WB only half-jokes about controversy. You don't want to drive away advertisers. but nothing promotes a show like a scandal. It was the conservative backlash against Married ... With Children that helped to put Fox TV on the map. "I don't think DC's going to cause a boycott," jokes The WB's Susanne Daniels. "But I'm going to look for one."

use with gas —

water heaters

fires

boilers

cookers

Will we see ads on the BBC?

"ADMIN say no to more ads" is a posible headline for a story inviving the resurrection of onest the oldest chestnuts in the JK media scene: a call

for the BC to take ads.

The ry is being heard at this wek's annual British TV adversing sales conference (in Baselona, naturally), and the bale is being led by the Incorported Society of British Adversers (ISBA), which represent the nation's advertisers. This sue is never far from the suface at the conference, one o the few platforms to which advocates for such a move lave access each year. But IBA is deadly serious abouts call. What lies behind it is avertisers' natural desire to alleiate inflation in the cost of TV dvertising airtime.

ISB is preparing its sub-missio to the Davies Committee or he funding of the BBC. In thepast it has argued that some overnment advertising shoul be shifted to the corporatio and that there should be linted advertising - three minus a day in peak time. say, a latest proposals will includdemands that the BBC

Agencies have allys resisted the ISBA's proposals. has Research found little enthusiasm for such a

move, and agencies

fear it will make the ad industry appear greedy (greedier!) in the public's eyes. Where the Institute of Practitioners in Advertising (IPA) concurs with the ISBA is in regard to commercial constraints. Agencies and maga-zine publishers bristle at the way the Beeb cross-promotes its magazines, for instance, and there's the matter of backdoor sponsorship such as the Camelot. So expect

much huffing and puffing about ads on the Beeb as the ISBA exerts pressure on agencies to support them. and agencies decline to do so. And there the matter will rest - until TBWA won overall

gold at Wednesday's British Television Advertising Awards for

19.00 19.30 20.00 20.30 21.00 21.30 22.00 22.30 23.00



its Sony PlayStation commer-cial "double life". Other winners included Guinness (the old Italian man in a swimming race), The Independent the cinema commercial "litany"), and Lego, Yellow Pages and Sony Camcorders. There's nothing terrible about this list of ads; they are



well-made and have advertising ideas, but something about

A still from Sony Playstation's winning ad

ered a few observers. It's not just that my own favourite. the VW Polo's "selfdefence", got silver: it was more how out of kilter this list is with the ads that

the public loves. Ads such as those for Guinness, The Independent and, to a degree, PlayStation are born of fantastic rechnical virtuosity behind the camera and painstaking post-production magic in Soho editing suites. They achieve a perfectionism that the ad industry, with its ex-traordinarily high production budgets per second of screen-

time, has come to expect. They are not devoid of advertising ideas - though 1'd argue that the Guinness and The Independent spots are beautiful films rather than great ads. The problem is that these are not the ads that have captured people's imaginations in the way the Gold Blend

py, and the Levi's and Tango series once did, and One 2 One and Walkers crisps do now. Some formulas are bound to

be popular in the living room - celebrities, furry animals and soap opera plots. There is no reason that awards juries should have to laud them just because they are popular. But the great campaigns of the past 25 years have managed to marry critical (ie, industry) acclaim with commercial and popular success.

Think back to Hamlet and Heineken, Carling Black Label and BT, Barclaycard and Tesco. That list is probably now headed by Walkers. One 2 One and Volkswagen, which won minor awards on Wednesday night. But there's no room for the likes of Peugeot: advertising the public likes, that sells cars in droves, but won't win a creative award - ever. Next year, we'll probably see

the more populist ads winning again. I hope so, because it would be dangerous for the ad industry to be even more selfcongratulatory and insulated.

Stefano Hatfield is the Edi-

EXCLUSIVE OFFER CARBON MONOXIDE **PORTABLE ALARM**



he First Alert portable carbon monoxide alarm is designed to detect the presence of hazardous gas leaks before they reach a dangerous level. This battery-operated alarm emits a powerful audible and visual warning against carbon monoxide, the lethal gas which is invisible, odourless and tasteless. The detector can be wall or ceiling

mounted (fittings supplied), or simply placed on a table or shelf. Ideal for people with gas appliances, such as boilers, waterheaters, cookers and fires. Comes

complete with a five-year guarantee. Send coupon and remittance to: The Times Carbon Monoxide Alarm Offer. TN087, Truebell House, Lombard Road, London, SW19 3TZ

9pm featured Kavanagh QC, which gained a ON Monday evening this week ITV unveiled its new evening schedule replacing News at Ten. According to unofficial overnight figures, the new ITV Evening News, at 6.30pm, slightly 46 per cent (10.3 million) share of viewing. ITV claims a 48 per cent share of viewing across the whole of the Monday evening: the outperformed the previous Monday's edition network's target for this year is to achieve an avof News at Ten. The first, brightly coloured ITV erage 39 per cent of peak-time viewing. The Evening News had an audience figure of 7.2 ITV Nightly News, at 11pm, was watched by 3.1 million, compared with 6.9 million for last million viewers, which is roughly the same for Monday's News at Ten. Previously, ITV's the various different regional programmes Early Evening News, at 5.40pm, drew in shown at lipm last Monday. News at Ten aver-

around 4.5 million viewers. Across the evening the rest of the peak-time scheduled ITV programmes also recorded slight weekly increases in their respective time slots. The uninterrupted drama and film slot at http://www.mediatel.co.uk (0171-439 7575)

aged around 5.8 million viewers. ■ MediaTel's online media information and analysis service is accessed via the Internet at

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CHANGING TIMES



; 24 a chance

EDUCATION

Are your children ready for this?

Guides can boost revision for national curriculum tests, says John O'Leary

☐ National curriculum tests have assumed great importance and sales of the guides produced jointly by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, the Stationery Office and The Times have increased rapidly. Many schools now encourage home preparation. All three of the age groups tested nationally are covered by the series of paperback books,

the only ones to include actual questions used in last year's tests. A single guide covers the assessment of seven-year-olds, and there are separate books for English, mathematics and science at 11 and 14.

This year's tests begin after Easter. but the guides are best used over an extended period assessment they can expect. The tests are the nearest that most children will come to a public examination before GCSE. The questions below offer a flavour of the two guides for primary children. The guides sponsored by this newspaper are available in mainstream bookshops, as well as through the offer at the foot of this page.

KEY STAGE ONE: 6-7 YEARS

ational testing conjures up an image nervous chilrows and working furiously. At the age of seven, at least, it is not like that. The assessment regime has been designed to get the most out of children by mirroring normal classroom activity.

The process, which marks the end of Key Stage One of the national curriculum, takes place over several weeks. Although there are formal tests in mathematics, reading and spelling, much of the assessment takes place in small groups with the class teacher. Results in mathematics and

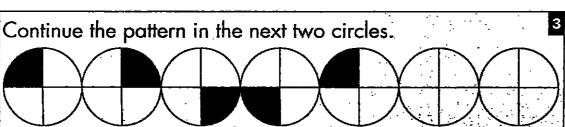
spelling improved last year, but children continued to find writing the most difficult of the tasks set. Few used paragraphs, and adjectives and adverbs were rare in seven-year-

Most children coped well with simple words in the spelling test, but they had difficulty with vowel phonemes and double consonants that represent a single sound, such as in "suddenly"

The mathematics test focused mainly on numbers, although there were some questions on data-handling and shapes. Just over half the children could work out the difference between 12 and 16, but fewer than half could calculate the change from 54p after buying five pencils at 10p each. No major changes are planned for this year's tests.

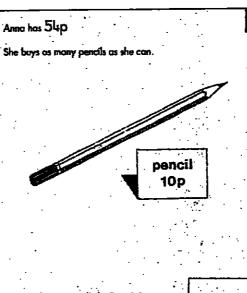


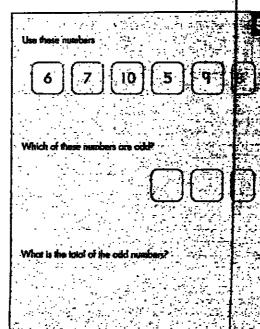






Ann Moss with Charlotte Atkins and Shuabor Rahman of Blue Gate Fields Primary School, East





THE

A PEUGEOT 206 TO BE WON WITH VIRGIN RADIO





1215AM

105-8FM

Help support Comic Relief by tuning into Virgin Radio tomorrow. There's a host of fantastic prizes to be won between 6.30am and 6pm. If you listen in between 5pm and 6pm you could win a Peugeot 206 GLX 1.4L* donated by The Times.

Other prizes on Virgin Radio's Comic Relief extravaganza include:

- Chris Evans' P-reg scooter with colour coordinated helmet
- A trip for two to see the Corrs in New York on St Patrick's Day
- ◆ A trip for two to see the 2000 Australian Grand Prix
- A drum kit signed by Queen's Roger Taylor

Calls cost \$1, of which 65p goes to Comic Relief. The more times you enter, the more money goes to the chanty *Prize of a Peugeot 906 does not include insurance. No cash alternative. Promoter, Virgin Radio.

See The Times next week for your chance to win thousands of Free Books for Schools tokens

CHANGING TIMES

KEY STAGE TWO: 10-11 YEARS

Stage Two of the national curriculum are the most sensitive set by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority because of their use in primary school league tables.

But they come too late in the year to be used for secondary school selection, or even the allocation of sets in most comprehensive schools.

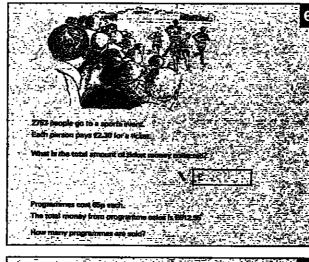
Eleven-year-olds encounter their first science tests, but English and, particular-

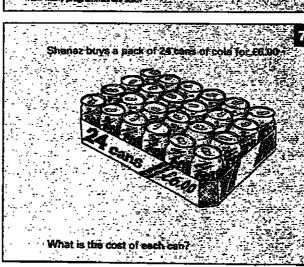
spite of some improvement in results, only 65 per cent reached the expected Level 4 in English last year, while the success rate for mathematics slipped back to 59

The new mental arithmetic test presented most difficulty. The 20 questions be-came progressively harder, and written work was discouraged but not penalised. Multiplication caused problems in the written tests but children were more se-

As at the earlier stage, 11-yearlds did better at reading than writing in the spelling test, vowels caused mosfifficulty, especially in irregular wordsuch as special and journey.

Children were more successf in science 69 per cent reached the expited level for their age. As in maths and inglish, this year's tests will be similar topose set



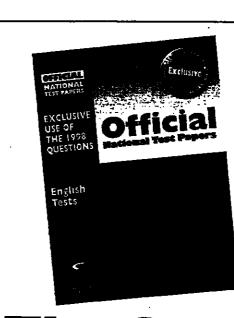


THE ANSWERS

1. Sam: I can not swim. I am 7 years old. Tina: I can swim. I am 6 years old. Kim: I can not swim. I am 10 years old. Bill: I can swim. I am 7 years old.

- 2. The clock should show ten to seven. 3. See below.
- 4. Four pence.
- 5. Odd numbers are 5, 7, 9. Total 21. 6. Total ticket money collected is £6,331.90. Programmes sold: 943.
- 7. Each can costs 25 pence.





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Study aids and companion guides through the key stages of education. English, Maths and Science for Key Stages 1,2 and 3.

THE TIMES





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hard rare

There is growing becoming too co

short break - continue - - to 3 in the morning (1965) to the description of a carlife of a murchant by City lawyer but the s posed timerable of archive, the ous Revear-old GUSL manage Traditionally, A 🖘 🚈 🤝 heen the great intellections and dle facing schoolchildre in the there is evidence that, many youngsters (4.5) may be more strem, as 15 = system where even A many can be starred, Britain's fitte fit est In-year-olds are becoming

victims of a culture increase to ly seeking perfection. Eighteen-year-old Santa Ka zahusein, whose dans series ule begins this article. bright and ambitious Assess. studentia/ho attends one of the leading schools in the West Midlands, Since Chr. she has been studying to see eral hours a night. And twice a week she works through the night. Satim does not contain.

such practices exception an these are merely the working habits she picked up aurous her GCSEs. "In my fourth year, in partie ular," she recalls, "I warmen and hard that I rarely stept, I was making myself ill. Even males. my form teacher dia a survey. to find out how much work way were doing on top of school (essons and the average war 3

calm down. Saum and her friends to fused to accept this naving hecause the pressure to perform

hours a week. She told us to

Beam

A school has linked up with space, says Iola Smith

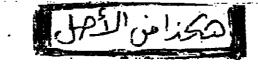
ussian cosmonauts have nave personnel some unusual tasks performed during the turbulent lifetime of the Mir space station. But it is safe to assume that they never expected to be opening a Welsh comprehensive.

Later this month the orbiting craft will declare the rebuilt Stanwell School in Penarth. Vale of Glamorgan, officially open. The mesage will be received at the school by Yuri Glaskov, a cosmonaut from Moseow's Star City, and George Abbey, the director of Nasa. Both dress staff and students as part well's space project.

The school's interest in span back to 1994 when Geoff Mules. -turned-Texan-businessman, de offer a bursary to allow sixth-fa visit Nasa's space centre at Ho-

Richard Palmer, an A-level who spent part of last summer it says: "We were taken around control the astronaut training and Nasa's observatories. We e a chance to use the simulators come a 'challenge' at mission such as piloting a craft with a component through space and Earth's atmosphere."

Richard was one of only a dents able to experience Hou first hand, Chris Barber, Stanwe uty head teacher, was keen for a pupils to benefit from the Nasa: tion and so, as Stanwell's relati



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Why the Government needs mature students



he first clues to Labour's hind this week's Budget investment plans for the next Parliament emerged this week with the news that civil servants were examining the feasibility of half the population experiencing higher education by the age of 30. As big ideas go, it is pretty modest because up to 45 per cent of the age group already sample university or college courses. But it is a pointer

to government thinking. With mature students suffering from the introduction of tuition fees, graduate employment shaky and questions being asked about course quality, the benefits of further expansion can no longer be taken for granted. But the thinking that lay be-

in "computers for all" also suggests that as many people as possible should take higher qualifications.

We may question whether the na-tion needs a further injection of sociology graduates or engineers, but even the current expansion of higher education is not about more of the same. The extra numbers planned at present are mostly in sub-degree courses for technicians and clerical workers, and often based in further education colleges rather than uni-

The longer-term model under consideration by David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, is designed to revive

by combining full and part-time study in a new way. Part-time numbers have continued to grow at a time when the new fees have made older students think twice about taking a degree. A relatively short fulltime introductory course followed by a longer period of part-time study would spread the costs more widely and might be seen as the best of both worlds by people who cannot afford lengthy career break.

Unless there is a transformation in public attitudes to education, however, even such limited expansion of the university system will require some stimulation of demand. Predictably enough, students are becoming more hard-headed about the courses they take since the introduction of tuition fees. Although the new courses would probably be largely vocational, many of the twenty somethings—the Government wants to attract will not have the necessary qualifications to benefit.

Conversion courses for those wanting to switch academic track and access courses for those who never got on to the track in the first place will be central to meeting the Government's target. But are they a serious preparation for higher education, or merely a way of covering up the poor quality of the intake at some universities?

A report published yesterday by

the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) is reassuringly positive. Not only does it signal new controls on the standard of access courses, but it finds that most have done well for their students. There is no information on the class of degree awarded to former access course students, but the report finds that they have been no more likely to fail or drop out than those entering by the conven-

tional route. First introduced 20 years ago, these access courses now involve more than 14,000 students. The subjects that access students choose sub-sequently tend to be those of national shortage, making the courses even more important in the future

planning of ministers. About \$5 per cent go on to degree programmes most commonly in nursing, social work, teacher-training or computing. Almost all the students are over 21 and a higher proportion than on other courses come from ethnic mi-

norities and poor families.
The QAA's new recognition scheme, which sets out to ensure that students reach a suitable standard for entry to higher education, should weed out the minority of courses that have put quantity above quality. If that can be guaranteed, many of the critics of expanded entry to higher education will be silenced and the Government's tar-

'I worked so hard during my GCSEs, I rarely slept'

There is growing evidence that many pupils are becoming too competitive, writes Hannah Betts

Work until 1.30 -short break - continue work to 3 in the morning. This is not the description of a day in the life of a merchant banker or City lawyer, but the self-imposed timetable of an industrious 16-year-old GCSE student.

Traditionally, A levels have been the great intellectual burdle facing schoolchildren. But there is evidence that, for many youngsters, GCSEs may be more strenuous. In a system where even A grades can be starred, Britain's brightest 16-year-olds are becoming victims of a culture increasingly seeking perfection.

Eighteen-year-old Satim Razahusein, whose daily schedule begins this article, is a bright and ambitious A-level tudent who attends one of the leading schools in the West Midlands. Since Christmas, she has been studying for several hours a night. And twice a week she works through the night. Satim does not consider such practices exceptional; these are merely the working habits she picked up during her GCSEs.

"In my fourth year, in particular," she recalls, "I worked so hard that I rarely slept. I was making myself ill. Eventually. my form teacher did a survey to find out how much work we were doing on top of school lessons and the average was 30 hours a week. She told us to

Satim and her friends refused to accept this advice because the pressure to perform

p at 7am. At work by 8. Home at 5pm. was internal. "No one made us work that hard," she adds. "My parents were worried, but there was nothing they could do: I would just shut my door and get on with it."

Satim gained ten As in her GCSEs, including five with stars, but still thinks that she could have achieved more. Such anecdotal evidence

that GCSEs are becoming the great testing point in a child's school career is supported by evidence from ChildLine, the national helpline for dis-tressed children. Of those young people phoning about exam stress who declared their age, 61 per cent were in the GCSE age group. In con-trast, 17-year-olds made up only 7 per cent of the statistic, and 18-year-olds, the age at which A levels are usually taken, only 4 per cent. In the aftermath of their traumatic GCSEs, many pupils appear to take A levels in their stride.

tudent desire to achieve the coveted starred As is exacerbated by the fact that GCS-Es are the only firm results for universities to use when offering places ahead of A level. For courses such as law and medicine, they have become a prerequisite. At the same time, bright children can overestimate the standards required to reach this level. Until the results of her mocks, Satim was convinced that she was going to get disastrous grades.

Continuous assessment may have been designed to remove the pressure from endof-course exams, but for many

children it has merely extended what could be termed perfection anxiety across two years. Some parents link this pressure with inter-school competition brought on by league ta-bles. This has led to accusations that some schools may be encouraging children to give up subjects in which they are expected to do less well because their performance may blot an otherwise perfect record. Other parents accuse schools of making over-opti-mistic GCSE predictions to spur students on to the highest levels of achievement.

Schooled on the quick sprint of O level, parents can find themselves bemused by the mania that comes with GCSE stress. Jane Meades has watched three offspring sit GCSEs at comprehensives in St Albans.

"There is a lot of pressure now," she says. "Originally, it was confined to the competitive atmosphere at a few schools, but it's all of them now. And GCSE time can be hellish, with teachers thinking that their subject is the important one. As a parent, you feel helpless. I did have anxieties that they were overdoing it." Parents used to become alert

to these problems only as the

exam season approaches. ChildLine's calls rise steadily from January. Help is also at hand from the Parent Network, a national organisation offering parenting education to 2,000 people a year. Child-Line has produced a leaflet that gives children rational advice on exam preparation. A



Out, offers advice to parents with sections on emotional support, danger signals and life

beyond revision. Valerie Howarth, the chief executive of ChildLine, summarises the problem: "Many GCSE pupils think that their whole future is swinging in the balance and some become suicidal. Children as young as 12 are calling the service with anxieties that their performance when it comes to GCSEs won't be good enough."

 Children can call ChildLine on 0800 1111. For a free copy of Exam Stress and How to Beat It, contact ChildLine, Freepost 1111, London NI OBR. The Parent Network is on

edpage@the-times.co.uk

Beam the class up, Nasa

A school has linked up with space, says **Iola Smith**

ussian cosmonauts have performed some unusual tasks during the turbulent lifetime of the Mir space station. But it is safe to assume that they never expected to be opening a Welsh comprehensive. Later this month the orbit-

ing craft will declare the re-built Stanwell School in Penarth, Vale of Glamorgan, officially open. The message will be received at the school by Yuri Glaskov, a cosmonaut from Moscow's Star City, and George Abbey, the director of Nasa. Both will ad-

dress staff and students as part of Startwell's space project.
The school's interest in space dates back to 1994 when Geoff Mules, old-boy--turned-Texan-businessman, decided to offer a bursary to allow sixth-formers to

visit Nasa's space centre at Houston. Richard Palmer, an A-level student who spent part of last summer in Texas. says: We were taken around mission control, the astronaut training centre and Nasa's observatories. We even had a chance to use the simulators to overcome a 'challenge' at mission control such as piloting a craft with a broken component through space and into the

Earth's atmosphere. Richard was one of only a few students able to experience Houston at first hand. Chris Barber, Stanwell's deputy head teacher, was keen for all 1,400 pupils to benefit from the Nasa connection and so, as Stanwell's relationship



Mission control: Richard Palmer with fellow pupils

with the space centre deepened, he hit on the idea of using the Internet to link the school with Nasa in a new way. So this term, Mr Barber and Mr Mules will launch a charity, the International Space School Foundation, at Stanwell.

Mr Barber explains: "We thought that Nasa's vast database could prove useful as a teaching tool in geography, science and psychology. But the difficul-ty would be trawling through the acres of material to find facts that would be relevant for, say, a 14-year-old studying volcanoes."

With assistance from the charity, the school will be able to establish a virtual exchange centre with Nasa. Teachers and technicians will be able to go through Nasa's data to extract features that are relevant for the national curriculum. The material, graded according to difficulty and tailored to the needs of specific age groups, will then be put on the Net to make it accessible to schools

Universe will be structured as a journey through space. stopping at locations that will include the Earth, the Moon and the planets. There will be opportunities to compare features such as radiation and volcanic activity between Earth and the Moon. Students of geography and environmental science, with their focus on Earth, will be able to take advantage of Nasa's picture library of Earth, with its quarter of a million photographs covering everything from hurricanes to the effects of El Niño.

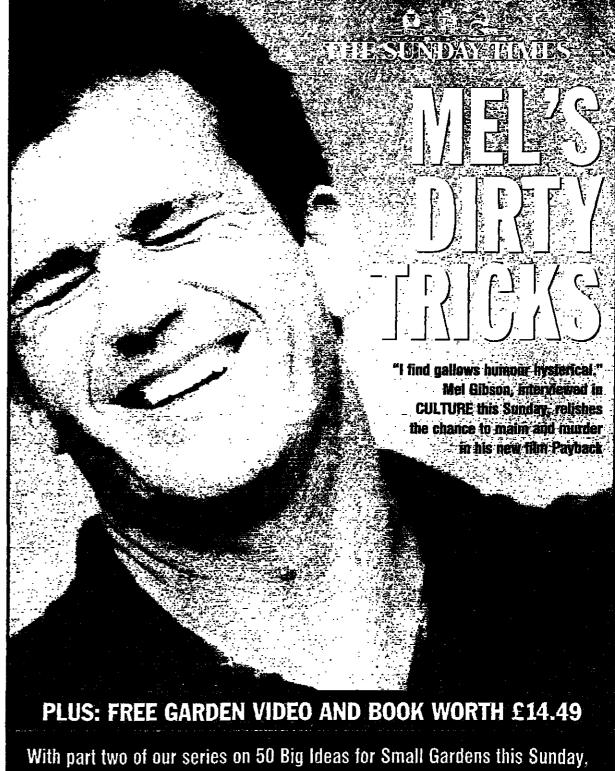
Once the material goes on the Net, Stanwell hopes that other schools will use

it, adding topics that they have been studying. "Our target." Mr Barber says, "is to have 2,000 schools using it by next year. We already have interest from schools in Britain and the United States."

Stanwell has long had electronic links with pupils in Sioux City, Iowa. Schoolchildren undertake joint research projects with their American email penfriends and learn about each other's culture.

Enabling more pupils to experience a Nasa visit is the final part of Stanwell's space project. The hope is that, for the millennium, a planeful of British students comprising Stanwell pupils and others who have contributed to the Net pages will go to Texas, and students from participating American schools wili visit Britain.

In the long term, as the international space station comes to fruition, expected experiments devised by British schoolchildren may be tested on board.



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EASTER REVISION

THE TIMES FRIDA

Clewlow can make crucial difference

By Carin Hakeis AND SYDNEY FRISREN

DENIS BAKER, the Casterwir. couch, believes Mel Circhas the Incland detender rould be the key to the kern wanten's dub gaining recents tion to the premier divisity. Contributy have threet physical at the highest level, but if they ben Bradlard in their faral nernoul league fixture conservathe will be promoted as first division champions.

Briter, the England Upder-to couch, admira that Canterbon have secured their place at the head of the table through "good, which team performances from everyear hat picks out Clewlow, the ext-tre back. "She's litter and fasor than I've ever seen her are ther vision and delivery of the long buil have been superfu Baker said With 14 goals to her credit

second behind Tina Callett, S. Hightown, Clewking Calif. 12 penalty corners is easily the best strike tale in the desire. With four materies were to be played in the own costs may league premier application Cannock are five points from at the top of the table and a safe ber to fine n there. The main obstacles in Cambrell's path are out of the way 17% three other teams to come

non for the top four place, and Southgate. Cart. Reading, still with it the injured Wyan, will a 3%; the same side that accuracy Camerbury to the water With only two marches

remaining in the first 4000. there should be an excent race to finish in the Life No. 1. order to survive in 1%, C when the leasts is to Totured next season ☐ The International 11 com Federation (FIH) annicement yesterday that Perib is to 1 the women's 2002 Western and with Kuaki Lustipus status. the men's. Amsterdam of the venue for the DAX ment of a

women's Champions Trees

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DRIVERS: Qualifying points

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56; R Zonta 48; L Badber 42: 3 25; J Trulli 25; O Pana 33, 14 -D Coulthard 13; J Villeneuve 1: grid to finishing position P de la Rosa 36 points 7 Taxa 15; HH Frentzen 9: G Fട്രാന്ത്യ prix M Schumacher 10 points. resulting in a driver being mas lane (10 points deducted: M.S. R Barrichello -10. Did not fants deducted): R Zonta -10 poetts: P Diniz -10; M Gene -10; J Trus -10; A Zanardi -10; D Coultnard J Alesi -10. Not starting after deducted): J Herbert -10 points (5 points deducted): none. CO points (scored for the first car end of every grand prixt: Ferrar 24: Benetton 23; Stewart 22; A: Incident resulting in a car being

in the pit lane (5 points decur

McLaren -20 points; Prost -20 (

Jordan -10; Williams -10; Benet

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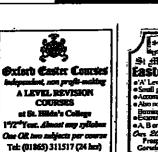
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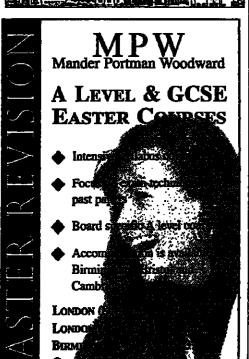
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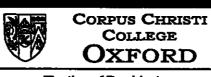
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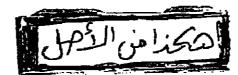
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With No



Clewlow can make crucial difference

By Cathy Harris and Sydney Friskin

DENIS BAKER, the Canterlow, the England defender, could be the key to the Kent women's club gaining promotion to the premier division. Canterbury have never played at the highest level, but if they beat Bradford in their final national league fixture tomorrow. they will be promoted as first-

division champions. Baker, the England Under-16 coach, admits that Canterbury have secured their place at the head of the table through "good, solid team performances from everyone", but picks out Clewlow, the centre back. "She's fitter and faster than I've ever seen her and her vision and delivery of the long ball have been superb,"

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ST-GRADUATE

Chancello

With 14 goals to her credit, second behind Tina Cullen, of Hightown. Clewlow's tally of 12 penalty corners is easily the best strike-rate in the league.

With four matches yet to be played in the men's national ague premier division, Cannock are five points clear at the top of the table and seem a safe bet to finish there. The main obstacles in Cannock's path are out of the way. The three other teams in contention for the top four places are Southgate, Canterbury and

Reading, still without the injured Wyatt, will visit Old Loughtonians on Sunday with the same side that defeated Canterbury 6-3 last week.
With only two matches

remaining in the first division, there should be an exciting race to finish in the top eight in order to survive in the division when the league is restruc-

☐ The International Hockey Federation (F1H) announced yesterday that Perth is to host the women's 2002 World Cup. with Kuala Lumpur staging the men's. Amsterdam is the venue for the 2000 men's and women's Champions Trophy.

Stains preaches the gospel of positivity

Rugby league hopes are rising in Memorial Ground, the electricity had gone off. London, Christopher Irvine finds but Dan Stains was oblivious to the cold. He had been up since 2am working on training ideas for his players' throats, though posi-London Broncos side and tive fervour abounds, and if was itching to get outdoors.

"Everywhere you go, always

That song came to mind at

Hull Kingston Rovers, where

an icy gale and belligerent lower-division opponents al-most scuppered London's

advance to the Silk Cut Chal-

lenge Cup quarter-finals. "It made me realise what a good

team we've got, because Hull KR would have beaten any-

one. It was blowing 40mph off the sea, it was their Wem-

bley, and we had to find a

escape route with the only try

in a grinding 6-0 win. As wel

as the restoration of Offiah's

scoring prowess after pro-tracted injury. Stains knew. too, that his instinct in hand-

ing the captaincy to Shaun

There were times at Hull

when we could have cracked.

but Shaun kept us going,"

Stains said. "He's a powerful

person and a natural leader."

Edwards at training are not

the only difference at the club

since the charismatic Stains,

34. from Balmain, arrived in

January. Trevor Howard, the

club's long-serving football manager, said: 'The place

has never been as charged,

nor the players quite so together, as under Dan."

His religious beliefs, of

JOHN WHITAKER, who has quali-

fied for every World Cup showjump-

ing final since the event started in 1979, hopes to secure his place for

this year when he competes in the

Paris qualifier this weekend. His

younger brother, Michael, and Geoff

Billington make up the British repre-

sentation at the show which begins to-

day and, on Sunday, will stage the

ninth of the 12 World Cup qualifying

The three British riders are al-

ready in the top 12 of the Western Eu-

which much have been

The driven features of

Edwards had been right

Martin Offiah located the

way out," Stains said.

take the weather with you,

the Australian grinned.

they did not appreciate it before, the principle of sowing and reaping is ingrained. Stains said: The intuitive side of competition is what spirituality is about. When acting on instinct, you're acting on what I believe is your God inside you. It's why I don't plan too far ahead.

"I believe I was destined to be here. Part of my mission is to establish rugby league in London. We are building towards the vision of a dominant club. I don't set goals,

We are building towards the vision of a dominant club?

but we can win the Super League this year, because we have the team to beat Wigan, Leeds, and the rest.

After a semi-final appear ance last year and a season in which generally they flattered to deceive, Broncos' approach has been more low-key and their signings less flashy. The gradual anglicising of the club has continued with ten of the 25 squad now British. Karle Hammond, from St Helens, forms a homegrown

Edwards, while Dominic

Brooks and Ed Jennings (the first rugby league player to emerge from the Isle of Wight) have been brought in from the development ranks.

Stains, who grew up on a dairy farm on the Darling Downs of Oueensland, is a product of the outstanding Australian junior system. As second-row forward, he represented Queensland and Australia and caught the bug for the British game during a six-month spell at Halifax in 1988, "when the Broncos were Fulham and looked upon as the backside of England in

rugby league terms". He pushed for the London job and was pleasantly surprised on his arrival. "The professional administration here is way ahead of many Sydney clubs, which have been propped up by poker-machine money, especially in marketing and development,"

'Australia is only ahead of England because of its jurior development. London fights to get every kid playing. It's slowly succeeding. My vision is for a strong junior base in which we can eventually hand-pick London kids to play for London," he said.

Victory in the home cup-tie against Whitehaven on Sunday would leave the Broncos and Richard Branson, their chairman, one step from Wembley. "To strut my stuff something special." Worth the 2am starts, certainly.



Stains has the contentment of a man in control of affairs. Photograph: Andre Camara

Whitakers appear secure

ropean League, from which the first 19 are eligible for the final in Gothenburg next month. Whitaker, who in the past has often qualified at the last minute, is pleasantly surprised to find himself as high as ninth at this comparatively early stage. "I just need a few more points this weekend

to make certain," he said vesterday.

By JENNY MACARTHUR

With Virtual Village Welham now resting, Whitaker will rely on Heyman on Sunday. "He hasn't done a grand prix this year but he's been to a couple of shows and is jumping well," Whitaker said of the ten-yearold gelding. If he does qualify, he will

use Heyman in the final and possibly Grannusch, the 19-year-old on which he won the first two legs of the final last year, followed by the Olympia qualifier in December.

Billington will rides his best horse Virtual Village It's Otto, on which he was third in Paris last year. Having been as low as joint 34th a month

ago, he has climbed to eleventh by virtue of good performances in Bordeaux and Bologna last month. Michael Whitaker, who is lying third, with 43 points, is virtually assured of his place in Gothenburg. His consistent performances this sea-

son include third place at both Millstreet and Olympia. "I'm pleased to have the pressure of qualifying lifted, but I'd like to win one," he said. On Sunday, he will ride either Virtual Village Ashley or Hilton, who improves

with each outing.

SNOOKER

Hendry's good practice pays off

FROM PHIL YATES
IN SHANGHAI

STEPHEN HENDRY and Billy Snaddon, who for the past eight years have practised together regularly at Spencers Snooker Centre, Stirling, will meet 6,500 miles away in the semi-finals of the China International here tomorrow.

Hendry, who edged Steve Davis 5-4 on the black in the last 16, improved his play during a 5-2 victory over John Parron, while Snaddon achieved a personal best in a worldranking event by unexpectedly beating Stephen Lee 5-3.

That's probably my best performance of the season, Hendry, who won the Scottish Open last month, said. "I can't remember missing an impor tant ball from distance."

Parrott failed to score in four frames as Hendry displayed ominous sharpness. The fourth, which gave the Scot a 3-1 lead at the mid-session interval, was of particular significance. Parrott built a 51-0 advantage before Hendry potted a long red to initiate a clearance of \$7.

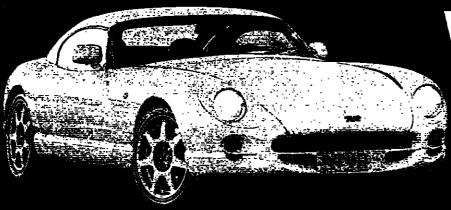
"When you scrape through match you should have lost. like I did against Steve, it tends to relax you and that's how I felt out there," Hendry, who compiled a break of 107 in the sixth frame, said.

Snaddon's break-building was more modest but the result was paramount for the world No 32, who is now guaranteed £11,000, the biggest cheque of a professional career that began in 1991. The possibility of Scottish players monopolising the semi-final places remains after a 5-4 win for Alan McManus over Mark King in the second round. He plays Ken Doherty today. while in the remaining quarter-final John Higgins meets Paul Davies, the world No 41.

Davies, from Cardiff, recovered from 2-0 and 58-0 adrift in the third frame to defeat Mark Williams, winner of the Thailand Masters in Bangkok

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION

THE TIMES



Plus £15,000 in cash prizes and Grand Prix trips for runners-up The Fantasy Formula One results of the Australian Grand Prix appear below

with Eddie Irvine leading the drivers on 153 points and Arrows heading the constructors with 21 points. J Kilmartin of Maidenhead, Berks, wins a pair of four-day passes to this year's British Grand Prix. His team, Prancers 9, scored 618 points in Melbourne and comprised M Schumacher, Irvine, Fisichella, R Schumacher, Frentzen and Takagi for the drivers and Ferrari,

Benetton, Williams, Arrows, BAR and Stewart for the constructors. The winner of our fantasy title will drive away at the end of the season in a TVR Cerbera, valued at over £40,000. Second prize is £10,000 plus a trip for two to the 2000 Monaco Grand Prix. Third prize is £5,000 plus a pair of four-day passes to the 2000 British Grand Prix. To enter a team for the Brazilian GP,

PARTIASY

AUSTRALIAN GRAND PRIX RESULTS DRIVERS: Qualifying points (scored by qualifying for the start of each grand prix within the first 20 positions on the grid): Pole M Halddnen 30 points; 2nd D Coulthard 25; 3rd M Schumacher 24; 4th R Barrichello 23: 5th H-H Frentzen 22; 6th E Irvine 21; 7th G Fisichella 20; 8th R Schumacher 19; 9th D Hill 18; 10th A Wurz 17; 11th J Villeneuve 16; 12th J Trulli 15; 13th J Herbert 14: 14th P Diniz 13: 15th A Zanardi 12: 16th J Alesi 11; 17th T Takagi 10; 18th P de la Rosa 9; 19th R Zonta 8; 20th O Panis 7. Finishing points (scored for the top 20 classified positions at the end of every grand prix); 1st E irvine 60 points; 2nd HH Frentzen 50; 3rd R Schumacher 40; 4th G Fisichella 30; 5th R Barrichello 29; 6th P de la Rosa 28; 7th T Takagi 27; 8th M Schumacher 26. (Only 8 were classified.) Lap point (one point for each lap completed): E Irvine 57 points; HH Frentzen 57; R Schumacher 57; G Fisichella 57; R Barrichello 57; P de la Rosa 57; T Takagi 57; M Schumacher 56; R Zonta 48; L Badoer 42; A Wurz 28; P Diniz 27; M Gene 25; J Trulii 25; O Panis 23; M Hakkinen 21; A Zanardi 20; D Coulthard 13; J Villeneuve 13. Improve grid to finishing position (3 points for each improved place): P de la Rosa 36 points; T Takagi 30; E Irvine 15; R Schumacher 15; H-H Frentzen 9; G Fisichella 9. Fastest lap time of grand prix M Schumacher 10 points. Penalty points incident resulting in a driver being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): M Schumacher -10 points; R Barrichello -10. Did not finish the race (10 points deducted): R Zonta -10 points; L Badoer -10; A Wurz -10; P Diniz -10; M Gene -10; J Trulli -10; O Panis -10; M Hakkinen -10; A Zanardi -10; D Coulthard -10; J Villeneuve -10; D Hill -10; J Alesi -10. Not starting after qualifying (10 points deducted): J Herbert -10 points. Speeding in the pit lane (5 points deducted): none. CONSTRUCTORS: Finishing points (scored for the first car only in the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix): Ferrari 30 points; Jordan 25; Williams 24; Benetton 23; Stewart 22; Arrows 21. Penalty points Incident resulting in a car being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): Ferrari -10 points; Stewart -10. Elimination of a car during the race (10 points deducted): McLaren -20 points; Prost -20; Sauber -20; Minardt -20; BAR -20; Jordan -10; Williams -10; Benetton -10. Not starting after qualifying (10 points deducted): Stewart-10 points. Speeding in the pit lane (5 points deducted): none.

BONUS POINTS apply to six grands prix during the 1999 Formula One championship, the first of which is the Brazilian GP. Correctly predicting winning driver: 100 points; second place: 200 points; third place: 300 points

THE PRIZES

STAR PRIZE The manager with the top score on our fantasy leaderboard after the final race of the season will vin a £41,100 TVR Cerbera, plus a VIP trip for two to any GP next season 2ND PRIZE £10,000 plus a VIP trip for two to the 2000 Monaco GP 3RD PRIZE 25,000 plus a pair of fourday passes to the 2000 British GP INDIVIDUAL RACE WINNERS The manager of the team that scores the most points in each GP will win a pair of four-day passes, with centre transfer, for the 1999 or 2000 British Grands Prix, courtesy of Silverstone

Silverstone

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Readers in the UK and Republic of Ireland must call 0640 67 88 88 (+44 870 901 4206 from Rol). Calls last about seven minutes and must be made by Touch-tone telephone. Follow the instructions and tap in your 12 two-digit selections in turn. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix where bonus points apply. Then give your team name (up to 16 characters) and details. You can enter until noon on Thursday, April 8, 1999 to qualify for the Brazilian Grand Prix

TO ENTER BY POST

Complete the form, right, with your 12 two-digit selections. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix where bonus points apply

02 M Schume

04 D Coulthard

05 A Zanardi

DOS D HAT

GROUP A

106

22

08 O Panis

10 J Alesi

09 G Fisichella

11 J Herbert

TRANSFERS You can make a total of 12 transfers. Each transfer allows you to change one selection. You can make up to four transfers with each call. For the Brazilian GP call 0640 678 801 (+44 870 901 4240 ex UK) before noon on Thursday April 7

RESULTS SERVICE

with your 10-digit PIN to hand. Your new

team must have three selections from

each of groups A, B, C and D.

BY PHONE: check the score and position of your team(s) after the Australian race by calling 0640 622 178 (+44 870 901 4278 ex UK) with your 10-digit PINL BY FAX: have your 10-digit PIN ready, pick up the handset on your fax, or press the on-hook or telephone button, and dial 0991 123 714. Follow the instructions. You will receive details of your race score, the points for your drivers and constructors and your position on our leaderboard. Calls cost £1 per minute and are available in the UK only. If you have any problems, call the helpline on

The column of figures after the names below, shows the Fantasy Formula One race scores for the Australian Grand Prix DRIVERS CONSTRUCTORS

GROUP C GROUP B 13 HH Frentzer 138 19 R Barnchell 30 BAR 24 Ferreni 116 14 A Wurz 35 20 P Diniz 25 Williams 31 Stewart 124 21 P de la Rosa 15 T Takagi 130 26 Jorden 32 Prost 13 32 16 R Zonta 46 22 L Badoer* 27 Benetton 33 Minardi 17 Marc Gen

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THE TIMES NATWEST FANTASY FORMULA ONE ENTRY FORM Complete this form with your credit-card details, or enclose a sterling cheque for £3 payable to Fantasy

Formula One. (For readers resident outside the UK and Republic of Ireland the fee is £15.) Post it to: The Times NatWest Fantasy Formula One, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton LU1 1ZZ. Your entry must be received by Wednesday, April 7, 1999 to qualify for the Brazilian GP

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	Team Name (maximum of 16 characters)	Credit Card Payment Card number: Expiry date MasterCard Visa					
į		Name on card					
į	I have read and accept the rules and wish to enter the Fantasy Formula One game.	Supply address of registered cardholder on a separate sheet of paper if different from that above					
į	Signature Date	Signature					
1		3 Which National Sunday Newspaper(s) do you buy almost always (3-4 copies per month)?					
i	Don't usually buy The Times 4. W	hich National Sunday Newspaper(s) do you buy					

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SPORT IN BRIEF

London in

for world

TRIATHLON: The prespect

of the world championships

being staged in London in

momentum yesterday when

Association (BTA) said that it

had agreed to progress a bid

Union (ITU) is looking for an

world governing body fell our

with the German lederation

last month. Mike Gilmore.

the ITU managing director.

shown from Cancun (Mexico)

London. "Having considered the risks, we decided it was a

great opportunity and that we wanted to bid." Elaine Shaw.

the BTA chief executive, said.

Boogerd, the Dutch national

overall lead in the Paris-Nice

stage race yesterday after an

audacious attack took him

Colombia, clear of the main

field in the steep hills of the

Puy de Dome region. Botero

snatch the stage victory, but

the Dutch rider's unexpected

move caught his main title

ROWING: More than 600

crews will be involved on the

Tideway today and tomorrow

schools' and women's head of

1998 junior international, and

the river races. St Edward's.

stroked by Chris Smith, a

winners for the past two

years, lead off 358 school

from the Bandstand to

Putney today. The three

crews in the Schools Head

leading starting crews in the

Mortlake to Putney Women's

Head tomorrow, Marlow,

Thames and Kingston, are

internationals, although

Kingston may be depleted

Kenya, a four-time world

Saturday, April 24. Tergat

Races at Balmoral on

ATHLETICS: Paul Tergat, of

cross-country champion, will

run in the the Compaq Road

will take part in the five-mile

packed with senior

because of injuries.

with the staging of the

and Santiago Botero, of

outsprinted Boogerd to

rivals unawares.

said that, despite interest

and Montreal, he had a

"clear preference" for

CYCLING: Michael

champion, claimed the

(David Powell writes). The

International Triathlon

emergency replacement

venue for Munich after the

September gathered

the British Triathlon

favour

event

FOOTBALL

Gregory attracts Stone to Villa Park for £5.5m

By Chris Moore and Stephen Wood

Villa manager, took the turnover of his wheeling and dealing this season through the £50 million barrier last night when he bought Steve Stone from Nottingham Forest for £5.5 million.

The former England winger. 27, agreed a 414-year contract with the option of a further year and he is likely to make his debut in Villa's FA Carling Premiership game away to Tottenham Hotspur on Saturday.

Stone is the fifth big signing made by Gregory this season, after Paul Merson, who cost £6.75 million when he moved to the Midlands from Middlesbrough, Dion Dublin, a E5.75 million buy from Coventry City. Alan Thompson, a E4.5 million purchase from Bolton Wanderers, and Steve Watson, who cost £4 million from Newcastle United. The departure of Dwight Yorke to Manchester United for £12.6 million leaves Gregory only £7 million in deficit on his transfer dealings. He had tried to sign Stone

last week, after agreeing an exchange deal with Ron Atkinson, the Forest manager, that would have seen Stan Collymore return to the City Ground, but the troubled former Forest and Liverpool striker rejected the move. "I thought then we might

JOHN GREGORY, the Aston have had to wait until the end of the season to have any chance of signing Stone." Gregory said. "but things have come together very quickly in the last 24 hours.

"I've actually been tracking Steve since much earlier in the season. He's an excellent allround footballer who will give us some width on the right. but he can also play anywhere across the midfield."

After setting the pace at the top of the Premiership for the first half of the season, Villa have struggled since January. collecting only one point from their past six games. Forest are bottom of the Premiership. Stone, who won nine Eng-land caps before suffering a career-threatening knee injury. said: "It's a massive move for



FOOTBALL IN BRIEF

■ Derby County expect to sign Vassillis Borbokis from Sheffield United today. Derby's proposed move for the Greek wing back, with Jonathan Hunt, Robbie Kozluk and about £500,000 going to Bramall Lane. has dragged on since Tuesday. But talks were continuing yesterday and the East Midlands club are hopeful that the 30-year-old will soon be a Derby player. He must sign by noon today to be eligible for the FA Carling Premiership match with Liverpool at Pride Park

tomorrow.

■ Harry Redknapp. the West Ham United manager. has closed the book on his dressing-room clash with John Moncur and is concentrating on the match away to Chelsea tomorrow. Moncur was fined after the row and Redknapp said: This is an internal matter and as far as I am concerned

it is in the past." Huddersfield have signed the Brentford goalkeeper. Kevin Dearden, on a free transfer as cover for Nico Vaesen, Dearden, 29, will be on the bench for the game away to Ipswich Town.

me and the chance to rekindle my career with one of the top clubs in the country. It's a wrench to leave Forest after so long, but I've always given them my all."

Gregory did not rule out making another signing before the transfer deadline, but insisted it would be "no one from Coventry". This was a reference to accusations made by Coventry City yesterday that Villa had made an illegal approach for George Boateng, their Dutch midfield player. Coventry have reported Villa to the Football Association and the FA Premier League.

Robbie Fowler, the Liverpool striker, sent a letter to Graeme Le Saux, the Chelsea player, yesterday in an attempt to draw a line under their public dispute. The pair were involved in a feud during the Premiership match at Stamford Bridge last month. Le Saux was seen to elbow Fowler in the back of the head, but it is believed that he was provoked by taunts from Fowler questioning his sexuality. Fowler received an apology

from Le Saux last week and issued a statement in response. That did not appear to amount to a full apology, but, after advice from Gérard Houllier, the Liverpool manager, and the Professional Footballers' Association (PFA). Fowler has written to Le Saux.

Part of the letter reads: "I am sorry if you misinterpreted my actions, which were not meant to cause any offence to yourself or anyone else." After legal advice. Fowler has, nevertheless, been careful not to admit any wrongdoing.

The Football Association is to hold an inquiry into the incident and Fowler's apology makes it possible for the controversy to be dealt with before the England squad convenes for the European championship qualifier against Poland later this month. Both Fowler and Le Saux are expected to be included in the squad, which is due to be announced by Kevin Keegan, the temporary manager, next Thursday.



Knowles profits from Sidek injury

PETER KNOWLES, who came close to giving up badminton after a two-month suspension earlier in the season, scored one of the best wins of his career in ensuring that two Englishmen reached the third round of the Yonex All-England championships for the first time in eight years yesterday. Later, however.

both were beaten in the fourth round by seeded players. Knowles went through when Rashid Sidek, the joint fifth seed and a former runner-up, retired with a calfmuscle tear at one game all. enabling the former England national champion to join Colin Haughton in the last 16 at the National Indoor Arena

axt)4 Kh1 Rg1 Bd4 Qf2 Rgc1 Ra6 Rxd6 Bb2

By Richard Eaton

in Birmingham. These two were caught playing cricket with hotel cleaning equipment at the Dutch Open last October and Knowles was punished for later abusing officials.

Haughton received only a one-month ban without losing funding but Knowles. who. coincidentally, had just beaten Sidek, lost about £2,000 of income. It made him wonder if it was all worthwhile.

"I only came back because I love the game and now I'm glad I did," Knowles, who took a part-time salesman's job during December and January, said. His form suffered

when he returned to competition, but he was resolute and confident yesterday, knowing that his best All-England result was a possibility.

He needed a chunk of luck. though. Sidek came with a well-timed push from 11-9 down in the first game to win it 15-12 and advanced to a four-point lead in the second. "It was at 13-8 that I felt something go," the Malaysian said. Knowles hurried the pace

and took the second game 15-13. Then, during the five-minute interval before the deciding game, Sidek, 30. could hardly walk and was forced to default.

Haughton was always in charge against Martin Delfs. 19, the son of Flemming Delfs. the former world and All-England champion, winning 15-4, 15-6. Haughton eventually went out 15-12, 15-2, to Fung Permadi, the second-seeded Indonesian, while Knowles, who seemed to be bothered by a groin problem, lost 15-3, 15-10, to Tawfik Hidayat.

There was further disappointment for the British contingent when Kelly Morgan, the Commonwealth champion from Wales, went out in the second round, beaten by Ellen Angelina, a promising youngster from the Indonesian assembly line, in straight

THE TIMES FRIDA Chris

CHEUTENHAM work begins with Mother's Day, but sould end with Mark Phinan erranapared from a matriarchal speil that extends beyond his own upbringing and into the profession he is now trying he matter on his own account.

Three of the young trainer? 30 horses have been prepared for the Weatherby's Champain Bumpet, a print only Deno Star has ever denied the Irish. Whether as mether or trace. his granuade for Jenus Filman's counsel will always codure, but success on Wednesday would amount to a decayration of his independence.

After all, heredity will have encet him nothing if had wif-

With 22 winners, the former juckey has enjoyed a time seeand season since fixing the nest But Pitman, 32 is reconciled to the disappostance is in his new craft and the rate was heaten member of his Festiva: mo, John David, has met with a setback and is a doubtful John David's straing demai

at Chepston in November prompted various fruities : 3fors to his owner inflated is high as 1200,000 by the achievements of his fall-trainer, Teeton Mill Pitran of course, needs no necessary at the importance of tamely trees. "You can be taught a stall." he said. "But if it's क्या व तकावको thing you can only state achieve a certain level To be the best, whether they are a footballer, or seast of a habite er, you need that rolls they that gut reaction correstors that sets you apart

comes with the Pitters care

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Jackpot: £2,454.50 Placepot: £8.20.

Carlisle

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Placepot: £16.20. Quedpot: £7.85.



SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT Begin Bridge with The Times: Lesson 47 - More on responder's second bid

Last week I promised to cover the situation where responder has sufficient values to make a second bid, maybe even to insist on game, but even after the first three bids of the auction the best trump suit is unclear. Look at the following hands after the auction 19-1 = -29:

(A) 🛧	KQJ105	(Β) 🛧	AK7643	(C) ♠	AQ9653
ů,	54		5	ů	7
Ų.	A K 6 5	÷	K762	Ý	AKJ65
4	J6	+	65	4	3
On U	and (ALT or				r

On Hand (A) I suppose you could jump straight to Four Hearts, since we worked out last week that partner must have a six-card suit: but it seems a little premature with only a small doubleton in his suit. Either Four Spades or Three No-Trumps could be a better contract. There is no need for you to decide now. Bid Three Diamonds. A new suit bid by responder is always forcing (to game if that suit is bid at the three level). This gives partner the chance to bid his hearts yet again with a very strong suit, give delayed support for your spades which he would do with, say, Ax. Alternatively he could bid Three No-Trumps if he had clubs well stopped.

Last week I gave an example of a weaker hand than Hand

(B) that had a six-card spade suit and a singleton heart. I said that the weaker hand should pass Two Hearts. This Hand (B) should bid Two Spades. This bid says, 'I know you have a six-card heart suit but I do not have a fit for you. However, I do have a six-card spade suit and a promising hand if you have a secondary fit for me.' Partner will use the same hard. have a six-card space suit and a promising nano it you have a secondary fit for me.' Partner will usually pass but can bid on if his hand is suitable for playing in spades. Note that it would be wrong to bid Three Diamonds because the hand is not strong enough to force to game.

Hand (C) has enormous potential, but not in hearts. Again

you bid Three Diamonds but this time you are not interested in playing in hearts or no-trumps. You are hoping to hear spade support from partner. If he rebids Three Hearts or Three No-Trumps you will bid your diamonds a second time.

All the hands I have looked at so far have been after the sequence 17-14-27 but the principles are similar whatever the auction. After a sequence such as In-Ia-2a, responder's choices are to pass, invite game with Three Spades or go all the way to game himself. After, say, 17-14-24, with a minimum hand responder can pass with, say, 6-8 HCP and much better clubs than hearts or give preference to Two Hearts with the same sort of values; with invitational values responder usually chooses between Two No-Trumps, Three Clubs and Three Hearts; and with 13 HCP or more, responder bids game in what he thinks will be the best trump suit (or no-

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

HEADAGE

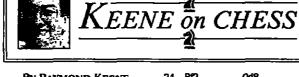
a. A person's intellectual age b. Number of animals c. A medicinal herb

MOUTAN a. The Himalayan sheep b. A tribal chieftain c. A pink shrub

LAULAU

a. A grass miniskirt b. Meat and fish c. A triumphal dance INTERFERON

a. A protein b. A computer virus c. A tactic at American football



By RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Linares final

Today I give the full final cross-table of results from the vitally significant tournament at Linares. Kasparov has won by a dominating and extraordinary margin of 2.5 points over his closest rivals. The question of who should challenge Kasparov for the world title is still open, since his two main rivals. Viswanathan Anand and Vladimir Kramnik, shared second prize.

White: Viswanathan Anand Black: Michael Adams

1411	an es 13	
	Eng	lish Opening
1	Nf3	Nf6
2	c4	e6
3	Nc3	Bb4
4	CP3	45
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	e3	Nc6
6	g3 a3	Ba5
7	Be2	0-0
8	Bg2 0-0	d6
9	e3	e 5
10	ď3	Rb8
11	Nd2	B#5
12	Nd5	Nvd5
13	Cxd5	Ne7
14	Nc4	b5
15	Nxa5	Qxa5 Bd7
16	e 4	Bd7
17	Qd1	f5
18	b4	cab4
19	Bg5	Nc8
20	Qd2	f 4
21	Bg5 Qd2 gd4 Bh4	h6
22	Bh4	exf4
23	ß	Qb6+
		•

Black resigns Diagram of final position

Keene online You can send me your queries, puzzles, problems and games direct by email. The address is keenechess@aol.com. The best contributions from Times readers will be published either here or in the Saturday Times

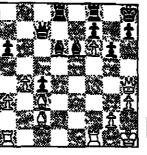
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WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Caurin-Ko-vacevic, Valencia 1998. In this position, White translated his kingside pressure into a beautiful attacking finish. Can you spot the conclusion?

Solution on page 50



Merthyr bank on arrival of Money

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY WALTER GAMMIE

THE future of Merthyr Tydfil should be guaranteed today when contracts are signed for Just Players Ltd, a consortium headed by Owen Money, a leading Welsh media personality, to take the club out of administration. Followers of the Dr Martens League club will be hoping that the move puts an end to months of strife that have verged on farce as the job of manager twice rested in the hands of John Lewis and twice in those of Eddie May as competing groups vied for the

The final twist came on

Monday when the deal was delayed after Eugene Caparros, who had owned the nowdefunct Ebbw Vale in the League of Wales, insisted that Just Players should not be able to take over because he had put in a higher offer. A meeting of the creditors decided to support the Just Players bid. One of the first tasks of Owen Edwards - the son of Gareth Edwards, the former Wales and British Lions scrum half, who will be installed as chief executive - is

to decide upon a new manager. The consortium's original choice, Colin Addison, who took Merthyr to second place in the Dr Martens premier division after an exciting duel with Forest Green Rovers last season, is now in charge of Scarborough, the Nationwide League club. Carl Dale, the former Cardiff City striker, had been mentioned as a candidate, but on Wednesday he signed as a player for Newport AFC, having been released by Yeovil Town.

It is expected that the new man will be installed for the FAW Premier Cup quarterfinal against Barry Town on Tuesday - a fixture by which Merthyr set great store as losing semi-finalists are guaranteed £20,000. Gareth Abraham, the caretaker playermanager and groundsman, and Mark Williams are likely to take the side to Dorchester

CRICKET

Lara must attempt to sway unfriendly jury

THERE will be no hiding place for Brian Lara in the second Test against Australia starting here tomorrow. By the end of it, the selectors, who have put him on a two-match probation, will have to make up their minds whether he is the man to lead them out of the gravest crisis in West Indies cricket history.

It was one thing for Lara to

captain the side at the Oueen's Park Oval, where his fellow Trinidadians had no difficulty excusing him for the collapse to 51 all out and defeat by 312 runs in the first Test. It will be quite another matter in Jamaica. where there is more hostility towards him than anywhere else in the Caribbean.

The last time West Indies played a Test match here, 14 months ago, it was abandoned after 66 minutes because the pitch was too dangerous. England were 17 for three and play had been stopped six times for injured batsmen to receive treatment. There is no chance of a repe-

tition of that debacle. Charlie Joseph. the Sabina Park groundsman, reckons that the relaid pitch provides the most even surface that he can remember here. Significantly, Joseph, who

has been working on the ground for almost 40 years, was on leave in New York when the square was first

FROM PAT GIBSON IN KINGSTON, JAMAICA

duce more life, with such catastrophic consequences. "When I came back, I had never seen anything like it in my life," he said. "It was awful, man. I couldn't believe they could prepare a pitch like it.. That night on the radio it was my name they keep saying ... they saying man work here all those years and can't prepare a pitch."

Jamaica have played three Busta Cup matches on the new surface and there have been numerous trial games. Joseph said: "It play good man, even bounce for the fast bowlers, turn for the spinners. It will last five days, even six, if the batsmen are any good."

Which brings us back to Lara. With Chanderpaul again ruled out with a recur-



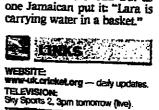
Lara: captaincy on trial

and Hooper still unavailable, he is the only proven Test batsman in the West Indies side and he admits that it is up to

him to provide the runs. Lara, who has not added to his ten Test hundreds since the game against Sri Lanka in St Vincent in June 1997, said: "I think it's important for myself and for West Indies cricket that I try to solve my batting problems and see how best I can go out to get similar scores like I used to four years ago."

He is going to be under enormous pressure for feelings are running high locally. Jamaicans have not forgotten how he agitated for the captaincy when their own Courtney Walsh had the job and they know that another Jamaican. Jimmy Adams, is one of the selectors' few alternatives.

Walsh was yesterday given the keys to the city of Kingston in recognition of his achievement in taking 400 Test wickets. Nehemiah Perry, the Jamaica off spinner, who has taken more wickets than anyone on the new-look square, is in line for his debut. But as



New Zealand pay for loose shots

SOUTH AFRICA were in command of the second Test match at stumps on the first day in Christchurch. They reduced New Zealand to 168 all out and then scored 54 without loss, Gary Kirsten and Herschelle Gibbs easily holding out New Zealand's new-ball attack. Kirsten, who hit a century in the drawn first Test, was timing the ball well, driving and cutting six boundaries in 90 minutes.

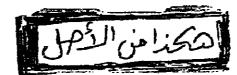
Dion Nash, the New Zealand captain, surprisingly batted first on a wicket expected to assist the early bowlers. But it was loose shots that undid most of the New Zealand batsmen. Two wickets fell in the first half-hour and, apart from a brief period of wayward bowling before lunch. New Zealand never recovered. Matthew Horne looked in touch, but went to Jacques Kallis's second ball for 36, flashing outside the off stump to be caught at second slip.

Three wickets in as many overs by Allan

Donald and Shaum Poliock shortly after lunch left the home side at 115 for six. Nathan Asile looked in control on a wicket playing flat and true, but Donald had him caught on the thirdman boundary, slashing at a wide delivery.

Donald left the field, having aggravated a stomach muscle injury, while Simon Doull, the New Zealand strike bowler, twisted an ankle.

Aravinda de Silva, returning to captain his country after injury, and Chaminda Vaas, the pace bowler, reinforced Sri Lanka ahead of the pace nowier, remnorced STI Lanka anead of the start today of the Asian Test Championship final against Pakistan in Dhaka. Temperatures have reached 37C, with high humidity.



Chris McGrath meets a young trainer with success in the genes

Pitman begins to make his mark

CHELTENHAM week begins with Mother's Day, but could end with Mark Pitman emancipated from a matriarchal spell that extends beyond his own upbringing and into the profession he is now trying to

master on his own account. Three of the young trainer's 30 horses have been prepared for the Weatherbys Champion Bumper, a prize only Dato Star has ever denied the Irish. Whether as mother or tutor, his gratitude for Jenny Pitman's counsel will always endure, but success on Wednesday would amount to a decla-

ration of his independence.
After all, heredity will have given him nothing if not self-

With 22 winners, the former jockey has enjoyed a fine sec-ond season since flying the nest. But Pitman, 32, is reconciled to the disappointments of his new craft and the only unbeaten member of his Festival trio, John David, has met with a setback and is a doubtful

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CYCLING Victory

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John David's striking debut at Chepstow in November prompted various fruitless offers to his owner — inflated as high as £200,000 by the achievements of his half-brother, Teeton Mill. Pitman, of course, needs no instruction in the importance of family trees. You can be taught a skill," he said. "But if it's not a natural thing you can only ever achieve a certain level. To be the best, whether you are a footballer, or skier, or whatever, you need that extra flair, that gut reaction, something

that sets you apart." If an instinct for horses comes with the Pitman chro-

mosomes, he also acquired a practical insight into training both riding for his mother they shared a Gold Cup with Garrison Savannah - and then as her assistant for four years. "We don't do things very differently," he said. "We use the same gallops, the same

"I spend a lot of time getting to know the horses' habits. To me, the mental side of training is every bit as important as the physical. You train the mind as well as the body."

When Pitman quit the sad-

dle, people assumed that he

RICHARD EVANS Name NATIVE KEINER

(LES Sandown Teach

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was being groomed for the succession at his mother's Lambourn yard. She has never been the retiring type, however, and he set up his own operation down the road. He rents Saxon House stables from Fulke Walwyn's widow, Cath. These same boxes once accommodated Mill House, The Dikler, Charlie Potheen and Mandarin.

Both trainers' legacies are entwined in Pitman's love of the "old-fashioned" chaser to which raw, substantial model all three bumper horses conform. That is why he is so

heartened by what they have already achieved, win, lose or draw at the Festival, "It's all a bonus," he said. "We didn't buy them to be good bumper horses but as Gold Cup horses. They we got the size and scope for a champion over fences to be among them."

Canasta won at Huntingdon before finishing second at Ascot last month, while Monsignor, likewise, made a suc-cessful debut, at Sandown, before being placed at Warwick and Newbury. "He cruised to the front at Warwick," Pitman said. "But the ground was desperate and he just didn't get home. He's working well and would have a live each-way chance if the ground isn't too soft. They crawled when Canasta was beaten and I

hope he'll run a big race, too."

The Gold Cup provided the outstanding moment of Pit-man's riding career and, in common with most professionals, he treasures the Cheltenham championships above even Aintree. Nor is there any mistaking his confidence. "I feel I can be one of the best. My strike-rate first time out is one in three. I don't think anyone else is higher. I'm proud of that. I don't have any other in-terests. I don't play golf, don't go to the pub. I devote my life to the horses. My wife would say I'm obsessed, and I probably don't see as much of my family as I should.

"Unfortunately I'm very ambitious and it's important to make an impression." Evidently it is better to make your own than to be merely someone else's Mark.



Pitman hopes to saddle his first Cheltenham Festival winner next Wednesday

Teeton Mill team left in dark by Williamson

By Chris McGrath

THE tug of war over Norman Williamson's ride in the Tote Cheltenham Gold Cup is threatening to absorb more ink and intrigue than the likely outcome of the race itself. Yesterday, the owners of Teeton Mill responded to suggestions that Williamson would honour a commitment to the Irish novice. Nick Dundee, by reiterating their confidence that Williamson would stay with the top-rated British chaser. But the conspicuous absence of any such assurance from the jockey himself prompted an admission of their growing irrita-

Williamson still protests that he may yet be spared a decision by Nick Dundee going for the Royal & SunAlliance Chase on Wednesday instead. Yet while that horse's connections refuse to commit themselves in public, antepost betting on both races offers corroboration to an Irish grapevine that is adamant: given cut underfoot. Nick Dundee's owner, John Magnier, will favour a tilt at the Gold Cup.

Of course, even if a final decision were still to be made, Williamson could assure The Winning Line, Teeton Mill's owners, that he will partner the grey regardless of Nick Dundee's Festival target. His failure to do so is understood to reflect some formal engagement with Magnier. Venetia Williams, trainer of

Teeton Mill, could shed no light on the matter after a long

conversation with the jockey at Towcester yesterday. can't tell anybody anything. she said, "as I don't know more than anyone else at present."

Stephen Winstanley, spoke sman for The Winning Line. insisted that Williamson would ride Teeton Mill, but conceded alternative arrange ments have been made. These are thought to involve Tony McCoy, whose Gold Cup mount, Unsinkable Boxer, is himself expected to switch to

the SunAlliance once Nick Dundee is formally scratched. "Venetia has assured us that Norman will ride," Winstanley said. "We'll be disappointed if he doesn't and. frankly, amazed. I'm not happy with the situation as it stands. We've made contingency plans and won't be left without a top jockey. I understand Norman's point of view but we can't wait forever, as we've a syndicate of owners who want to know where they

Williamson said: "There is no point me saying what I ride until a decision on Nick Dundee has been made, if he runs in the SunAlliance there's no decision for me to make, so what's the hype about?" But he did not sound remotely comfortable.

☐ Coral has opened a book on the Dubai World Cup, making Silver Charm 7-4 favourité to repeat last year's success on March 28. The firm then bets: 5-2 High-Rise, 3-1 Victory Gallop, 6-I Daylami.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Wincanton

Geing: good in soft, good in pieces 2.20 (2m hole) 1, Taquilla (M A Fizgereld, 4-6 fat); 2, My Man Dan (40-1); 3, Guido (16-1), 4-6 ran. 2-1, 5. N Henderson, Tole 2: 1.80; £1.10, 25 60, £3.20 DF £34.40. CSF: £45.76. 25 90, 23.20 DF 234.40 CSF: 245.76.
2.50 (2m 5f ch) 1, Laredo (J Tazzard, 5-4 tav), 2, Oscar Wilde (13-2); 3, Reikander (9-1), 5 ran. NR: Montroe, 3l, 111 P Nicholis. Tota: £1.40; £1.10, £1.60, DF: £2.20 CSF: £4.09 Montroe (2/1) was withdrawn not under starter's orders. Rule 4 applies to all bets, deduction 30p in the pound.
3.20 (2m 5f ch) 1, Natyssarl (N Williamson, 13-2; Timestosper's top rasing); 2, Ambestide (11-4 tax); 3, Linton Rodes (6-1), 8 ran. St. 4l. P Rich. Tota: £7.10, £2.10, £1.50, £1.30 DF: £10.40, CSF, £22.37, Tricast: £101.39

E101.39 3.50 (2m note) 1, Kasona Cross (Mr Ri Fornisal, 11-2): 2, Hot in Saucy (8-5 lan); 3, Mm-Lou-And (7-1), 8 mn. 1 4, 144 A.J Wason. Tota: £8-40; £2.10, £1.30, £1.10. DF: £5.00 CSF: £1.107. Tricest: £39.30 ES 00 CSF: E11.07. Tricast: E39 30
4.20 (3m if 1-10yd ch) 1, 34th/britisse (Mr M G Maler, 10-11 (as); 2, Comedy Gayler (3-4), 3, Some-Toy (9-2), 4 ran. 13, 3*\footnote{1}. R Maler. Toke: E1.70. DF: 52.00. CSF: E3.3*\footnote{1}. 4.50 (2m 6t holle) 1, Night Trynne (Mr R Foristel, 13-2); 2, Blue Blazer (4-1 p-las); 3, Walters Deship (10-1), Ethosfael (4th) 4-1 p-las), 12 ran. MR: Sea Tarth. 14, 41, M Roberts Tote: C7.80, E2 10, E1 10, E2 00 DF: £10.00. Tole Triflecte: £162.90 CSF: £29.67 Titoet: £238-98
8.20 (2m holle) 1, Blasman (M A Fizzgerald, 11-4), 2, Father Kriernes (7-4 fayl; 3, Brandon Court (6-1). 18 ran. 7, 131 S Smal. Tote. £5.20; £2.80, £1 10, £4.20 DF: £4.90. CSF: £29.87 Joseph (5-1), E1 10, E4.20 DF: £4.90. CSF: £29.87 Joseph (6-1), E1 10, E4.20 DF: £4.90. CSF: £29.80 Jackpot: £2,454.60.

Jackpot: £2,454.60.
Placepot: £8.20. Quadpot: £5.50.

Carlisle

Goling: soft, heavy in places
2.00 (3m 110yd hdie) 1, Str Bob (C McCormeck, evens lev); 2, Who Deres Wins (5-1);
3, Pessimatic Dick (50-1); 8 ran Nk, dist W
McNecwn, Tole: \$2.00; \$1.10, \$1.40, \$3.00.
DF: \$2.30, CSF: \$8.61. OF: 13.50. CSF: 68.61. 2.30 (2m ch) 1, Jame's Rilver (Mr A Dempsey, 2-1 lay); 2, Fassan (4-1); 3, Jack Years (12-1). 7 ran. 71, 151. Mrs M Reveley, Tota: 52.60, 51.60. 52.00. DF: 63.60. CSF. 59.10. 22-07, 51 80, 52:00. OF: 53 80. CSF- 53 10. 33.00 2m 41 110yd hidge) 1, Saaf 0n Sidd (R McGrath, 2-1); 2. Corporation Pop (8-11 lay); 3, Dante's Gien (20-1), 10 ran. 194, 187 J O'Nell Tote: 52-77, 51 80, 51 00, 53 90 DF 51 50 CSF- 52-51 3.30 (2m 41 110yd ch) 1, Saaf Mad Bad (P Niven, 4-8 lay); 2, Arden's Scoul (9-1), 3, Hunst Ryer (7-1), 5 ran. 194, 71 Mrs M Reveley, Tote: 51 50; 51 00, 52 80. DF: 52 00. CSF: 52 59.

USF: \$2.56.
4.00 (2m If Indie) 1, Allerbeck (I. Cooper, 8-1), 2, Far And Fency (7-2 les); 3, Irish Wildcard (4-1) 7 ren 11, 101. J Goulding Tote: \$10.00, \$3.40, \$1.80 DF: \$27.20. CSF. \$31.60

\$31.60
4.30 (3m 2! ch) 1, The Next Weltz (R Supple, 7-4 fav, Thunderer's map); 2, Masser Wood (4-1), 3, Silens Steller (7-2), 6 tan 34, 101. L Lungo, Tote: £2.10; £1.50, £2.10. DF: £5.20 (2m 1f 8g) 1, Denarites (Richard Quest, 4-1), 2, Harmish Mor (100-30), 3, Fishil's Led (3-1 tay) 9 ran, 34, 71 W Heigh Tote, £6.0, £2.20, £1.60, £1.30. OF. £34.20, CSF £18.21. Questpot: £3.30.

Towcester

Goings soft, heavy paiches 2.10 (3m Indie) 1, Welliswood (M Mello. 10-1); 2. Tylo Sissamer (7-2); 3. Com Ex-change (25-1), 6 ran. MR: Smokey Robot. 2, 13 J. Jefferson Tote: 59-50; 53-30. 52 10. DF: £23.70 CSF: £35.59. 2. 13 J. Jefferson Tote: 59:50, 53:30.
2. 10. DF - E23:70 CSF: 525:59.
2. 40 (2m 6f ch) 1. Ever Bleesed (R Durwoody, 1-6 feet), 2. Coulin Loch (16-1): 3. Brachthepurple (50-1): 5 ran. Dist., 181 Mrs. J. Phrana Tote: £1-20; 52:00, 52:10 DF. E7:80. CSF: £4.02.
3.10 (2m 5f halle) 1. Bores Bora (C Llewellyn, 11-8 fey); 2. Besse Black (12-1): 3. Rising Tallster (15-2): 8 ran. St, 81 N Twist-on-Davies Toter £1-90: £1-10, £1-70, £2-70. DF: £7.00 CSF: £14.87.
3.40 (2m Indie) 1. Get The Point (D Gallagher, 6-4 few); 2. Warm Spel (9-2); 3. Walting Tall (100-30): 5 ran. Sh.hd, 8: \$ Gollings Tox: £2.00: £1.10, £1-90. DF : £5.10 CSF: £6.70.
4.10 (3m If ch) 1. Scottly (B Powell, 13-6). 2. Lancastran Jet (4-7 tax); 3. Holy Sing (40-1): 4 ran. Dist, 101. R Buckler. Tote: £2.80 DF: £1.40. CSF: £2.92.
4.40 (3m, 11.ch) 1. Avostar (Mr B Policck, 44-60. Rm, 11.ch) 1. z.cou UF: E1.40. CSF: £2.92 4.46 Cm 1f cm) 1, Avostar (Mr B Policek, 7-4 tan), 2, Bally Riot (3-1), 3, Indian Crow (16-1). 9 ran, 81, 3%. Mrs Caroline Balley. Tota: £3.00, £1.10, £2.30, £2.70 DF: £3.20 CSF: £8.89 CS:: 18.89 5-10 (2m fer) 1, Goldson Flose (C Murray, 10-1); 2, Chopins Revolution (9-2); 3, Good Job (13-2), 10 ran. 11, 34, 1 McCloven. Tota: 21:500; 22:30, \$1.40, \$2:60. DF: \$20.10, CSF: £51.18.

FULL RESULTS SERVICE 168

Piacepot: £16.20. Quadoot: £7.80. RACELINE 09066 168+ COMMENTARY SANDOWN 101 201 HEREFORD 102 202 103 203 yesterday. G'HOUNDS 122 222

3.45 Another Night 2.35 Russell Road 4.15 Silver Stick 3.10 COURT MELODY (nap) 4.50 Chevalier Errant Timekeeper's top rating: 4.50 ESTATE AGENT. Carl Evans: 4.15 Extra Stout.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

2.00 WORCESTER PARK NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£4,299; 3m 110yd) (10 numers)

109 3-6F4F CLAYMORE LAD 22 (Mariborough Racing Parisezable) J Ming 9-10-0 ... W Marshon 87 110 ZEPRR4 RAMELING SAM 20 (D.S.) (I Jones) G Bailing 7-10-0 ... B Cation 82 BETTIME: 5-2 Country Store, 3-1 Kinghi's Creal, 7-2 Lead Vocalici, Sarsson Friendly, 16-1 Proceed, Via Del Danto, 25-1 High Thyse, 33-1 others.

1998: MCUNTAIN PATH 8-12-D M A Fitznesaid (3-1) N Henderson, 7 ran

19567 MULIII LAN PATH 8-12-0 M A Fitzgesale (3-1) N Headerson 7 ran

Kright's Crest polled up in bandless class at Bargor (3m 64, good to soll), previously beat Millerstord 161 in 8-names nowice class at Warwick (3m 24, good to soll). Lead Vocales 34 44 hold 8 to Looks Like Troothe in morker headicap chase at Sandown (3m 110/d, good) with Copyrone Lad (Geneta) left. Barrison filtroothe in marker headicap chase at Pleassion (3m 1110/d, soll) previously beaten a distance 2nd of 9 to Looks Crosts in nevice chase at Pleassion (3m 1110/d, soll) Country Storm 18 3hd of 15 to Petal Media in headicap brands of Tarrison (3m 110/d, good to soll), previously beat the Cockerton short head in 8-names handicap chase at Tarrison (3m, good to soll), the Perhappi 32 3hd of 7 to Stormyfal weather in moving chase at Dancies (3m, 200, 4m Del Couttor beaten at Gatance 34 of 8 in Registi Temple in novice chase at Former (3m 20 110/d, good to soll), previously beat Dancies 8 in 5-numer sowce handicap chase at Former (3m 22 110/d, good). CONNTRY STORE, mydalised by a switch to Martin Pipe this season, bolds strong claims

2.35 RACAL NOVICES HURDLE (£4,416: 2m 6f) (11 runners)

1998: GOLD LUND ANDPHY 6-11-12 if Oursmody (11-4) P Hobbs 31 ch.

Nation King 12) 3rd of 13 in Bacchenni in convol. brudle at Sandonen (2m
110pd, good to soll) with High Garne (1th better old) 281 5th. Russell
good to soll): previously 281 3rd of 10 in Booste Nation to Door in notice hardle at Sandonen (2m 6)
15) 2nd of 8 to Kingsmark in conditional notice hardle at Folkestone (2m 6) 10 (bd, soll) Chicago
City 15) 2nd of 8 to Kingsmark in conditional notice hardle at Folkestone (2m 6) 10 (bd, good to soll); previously
1648 17 of 14 to Descript Labrid in notice burdle at Windson (2m, good to soul); cold Class 33 60 of 18 to
Anna Karnali in mainten mit fant for at Fonkesto (2m 21 10pd, soll). Kings Vean 111 4th of 14 to Percy Partners
of in soulce burdle at Kennot (2m 6) 110pd, howy).

3.10 HORSE & HOUND GRAND MILITARY GOLD CUP (AMATEUR CHASE) (£5,084: 3m 110yd) (14 numers)

1998: SILVER STICK 11-14-12 M Walson (12-1) M W Easterby 15 cm

Trees Section 11 (14 or 10 or 10 or 15 or 16 or Course-and-distance withour SYMBOL OF SUCCESS could not be in better heart

COURSE SPECIALISTS 34.5 30.8 20.0 19.1 18.7 15.9 14.9 J Old
P 16cholis
Mrs A Perrel
P Hobits
D Micholison
J King
N Headerson

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

3.45 TOTE HANDICAP HURDLE [SHOWCASE RACE AND TOTE TREFECTA RACE]

(£5,485: 2m 6f) (10 runners)

403 Y-0327 MISTER BENEFICSHY 17 (D,6.5) (MAY, J.Jeyes) C Weedon 8-10-6 ___ A Maguite 410 5-0011 EQUITY'S DAPLING 16 (B,D.S) (MAY, V O'Bnen) D O Buen 7-10-4 M Batchetor (5)

BETTING: 7-2 Moster Generosay, 5-1 Wontrostalottva, 6-1 Whitechaper, Equal, 5 Darling, 8-1 For Down, Imad. Lord York, 12-1 others. 1998; THE PROMS 7-12-3 J Coldstein (3-1 lan) IV Twictim-Davies, 12 ran

Whitechapel hear Surjegos Crus is in 10-manns mones handle at Chapsison (2m 110yd, heary) bread 50 2nd 13 to Salmon breeze an mouse some (2m 110yd, heary) bread 50 2nd 13 to Salmon breeze an mouse some (2m 110yd, heary) bread 50 2nd 13 to Salmon breeze an mouse the surject of the surject of

WONTCOSTALOTBUT is admirably consistent and looks casable of clargo a heating role

4.15 DUKE OF GLOUCESTER MEMORIAL HUNTERS CHASE (PAST & PRESENT)

BETTING: 15-8 Extra Stout, 2-1 Silver Stick, 9-4 Brass Of May 14-1 Masched Star, 16-1 Stantum Fort. 1988: BRAES OF MAR 8-12-4 Mores D Ellwood (6-4 law) N Henderson 6 ran

Brass Dt Mar 311 4th of 8 to Cat. Ron in handleson 6 ran

Brass Dt Mar 311 4th of 8 to Cat. Ron in handleso chape at Chadhord (3th

4. 4, good to firm), prevenutly 11 2nd of 5 to Recision Single in hunter chape

at 8 many Cam. 10 (you, coll). Solver South 24 2 and of 6 to Net Brangas is

housing classe at Westerby (2m 11 good to solt). Stoigue Fort 23 3d of 8 to Lightnes in hunter chape at Rebo

(3m 11, good to firm). Mischiel Star 191 4th of 5 to hat 10e but in no-net handleso handles fortheed (2m 51 10)yd. Ism), previously bedan a distance 4th of 12 to Williams in handleso chase at Newton Abboli (3m 2f 110yd. good to firm). SELVER STICK, wiener of the Grand Military Gold Cop leaf year, can prove equal to this task

4.50 BUSHY PARK NH NOVICES HURBLE

(£2,905: 2m 110yd) (14 runners) (22,9US): ZITI 11070) [14 10/RBSS]

601 -25421 CHEF WARDANCE 20 (D.F.S) (No. 3 Vaccious d. Vot. 5 Lamysem 5-11-5 R. Ferrant 192

602 -25251 ESTATE AGENT 15 (D.F.S) (T.S. J. Vaccious d. Vot. 5 Lamysem 5-11-5 R. Ferrant 192

603 08-301 MODOSPARE BAY 102 (S) (No. 1 Peterspan) J. Gened 5-11-5 P. Hobe

604 -1105 A.T.A. 50 (G) (Alchemistry) N. Texton-Loves 6-11-6 C. Levenbyn 94

605 08-202 DRAGON LORD 60 (GF.D.G) (No. 1 Belzo) R. Rose 5-11-0 R. Durnevool 90

606 08-202 DRAGON LORD 60 (GF.D.G) (No. 1 Belzo) R. Rose 5-11-0 R. Durnevool 90

607 0-6 HERBSANEAD 23 (A) Bacteloo S. D. Battisley, 18 Westson 7-11-0 W. Warston

608 098 (CP.NOTE 21 No. Jackson Broodsoot LOV R. Rose 7-11-0 L. A. Apple —

609 098 (CP.NOTE 21 No. Jackson Broodsoot LOV R. Rose 7-11-0 M. A. Rogela —

609 098 (CP. OTRAGO HERBITS S) (No. 1 Alex Cres Patrestag) 15-1 Fister 7-11-0 M. A. Rogela —

611 0 RAGON REPORTS (Regal Rosen) R. Rose 5-11-6 R. Widger (S)

612 222 ROCABEL SO R. Berton D. Nicholan 5-11-0 R. Widger (S)

613 0 SOMETHING DANDY 27 (R. A. Permershey) J. Disc 6-11-0 G. Tormey

614 000-0 THE BOZZ 13 (J. Parment) J. Parment 6-10-9 M. Battishelor (S)

BETTING: 11-4 Estate Agent, 9-2 Alta, 5-1 Moonchine Bay, 11-2 Pozzbee, 7-1 Chevaber Errant, 8-1 Chief Wardance, Diagron Lord 20-1 others.

1998. ANDANTO 7-11-7 il Duminody (8-11 ba) Lady Homes 14 ran

Chief Wardance best Eig Aloi 2 in 20-mate monce burde at Newczelle

Chief Wardance best Eig Aloi 2 in 20-mate monce burde at Newczelle

Chief Wardance best Eig Aloi 2 in 20-mate monce burde at Newczelle

Welbesty, Chie, anti). Estate Agent best Father Nutries, 1--i in 17-mane

maden burde at Wareastine (2m) good to scall, previously, 154 St. of 20 It Kindusco, in oncice burde at Wareastine (2m) at 110-burge, pro-incompanie for at 110-burge (2m) at 110-burge, pro-incompanie for at 110-burge (2m) at 110-b

ESTATE AGENT was not wranted out of turn tales and should again have a major say bere

Blinkered first time

Hereford: 3.00 Asinbox, Trakelor, 5.10 Another Chancer.

Dato Star and Lord Gyllene back on the sidelines

ISTABRAQ will face a maximum of 16 rivals in the Smurfit Champion Hurdle at Cheltenham on Tuesday, Last year's record-equalling 12-length winner was among 17 horses declared for the race

His stable-companion Theatreworld, runner-up for the past two years, and Bellator are the only other acceptors to have run in the race 12 months ago. Dato Lord Gyllene, the 1997 Grand National

Star, blighted by injury throughout his career, was among the horses withdrawn yesterday after disappointing Malcolm Jefferson, his trainer, in his recent homework. "He just isn't right," Jefferson said. We went to school him this morning and he is not schooling as he should, so he will not be running."

Another horse back on the sidelines is

next month's renewal. The 11-year-old has suffered a suspected stress fracture of the pelvis and will miss the rest of the season. His injury came to light in tests carried out to investigate a muscle strain.

Lord Gyllene did not attempt a repeat National win last year because of leg trouble. He has been soundly beaten in his two races this campaign.

2.10 Bodega Bay. 2.45 Clady Boy. 3.20 Vitprano. 3.55 Weaver George. 4.25 Strathmore Lodge. 5.00 Western General

Carl Evans: 4,25 Spartan Breeze. GOING: GOOD TO SOFT *

2.10 LOCH DOON NH MAIDEN HURDLE

(£2,145: 2m) (11 runners)

2.45 ROYAL HIGHLAND FUSILIERS NOVICES CHASE (£2,898: 2m 4f) (11 runners)

CHASE (12.098: 2011 41) (11 RIBBES)

1 0-65 CASTLE CLEAR 174 (8FS) Mix M Revely 6-11-2

FO44 CLADY BOY 34 (S) 5 Kir/ (rs) 8-11-2 D A McSughin (7) = 2

5 044 CLADY BOY 34 (S) 5 Kir/ (rs) 8-11-2 D A McSughin (7) = 3

6 4-0 FOST COURSE 233 (S) M Fostware 10-12 ... B Handing = 4-0 PP SEE 0F RILL 32 M Fostware 8-11-2 C. Biscompact (3) = 6

6 78-9 LUTHAN COMMODORS 27 M Richards 9-11-2 ... P River = 7

2258 PM ACE OF GOLD 16 (F.G.S) LUTIO 9-11-2 ... R Supple = 8

10-2 LIP FOR RANSOME 11 (7) Mix A Rangiston 10-11-2 J Supple 91

9 -979 NNOVATE 49 Mest (Riccell 7-10-11 ... S Durach 10 5310 LESSOLE 53 (8F.D.F.S) N Rachado 7-10-11 ... A Dubbin 61

10 -34 STORM CALL 20 (S) D Wildra 8-10-11 Mr J P McHamara (5) BELT 3-1 Jessoile, 5-1 Castle Clear, Up For Ransome, 11-2 Fonest Tribe, 6-1 others

3.20 JAMES BARCLAY MEMORIAL HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,815: 2m 6f) (7 runners)

1 LUSF SHOMARA'S WAY 7 (6.5) P Montain 8-11-12 ... A Dobbin 9-2 FRPP PHAR ECHÓ 20 (8.C.5) L Lungo B-11-6 ... W Donding (5) 95 432 VLPPANO 20 (D.F.G.) Modell 8-11-3 ... W Donding (5) 95 45 2542 VLPPANO 20 (D.F.G.) Modell 8-11-3 ... W Donding (5) 95 45 45 BERNARD SEVEN 13 (6) Mest I Rezell 7-10-12 5 Durack 91 5-446 BERNARD SEVEN 13 (6) Mest I Rezell 7-10-12 5 Durack 91 7 /23- FANADRYF 451 J Goldie 7-10-0 ... B McGrain ... 2-1 Aziec Flyer, 4-1 Vilgrano, 9-2 Phas Echo, Planning Calo, 6-1 others.

3.55 ARTHUR CHALLENGE CUP (HANDICAP CHASE) (£3,737: 2m 4f) (5 runners) 1 3F61 WEAVER GEORGE 11 (D.F.G.S) W Storey 9-12-1 (Stor)
R McGrath [153]
2 -F31 HARFDEDT 16 (F.G.S) Mr. M Seveley 8-11-9 ... P Naver 105
3 1R3 FEN TERRIER 11 (D.G.S) F Muster 7-11-3 C McGarmat (3) 88
4 -4UP RACHAEL'S DWEN 11 (8F,CD,F,G.S) J Galoie 9-16. In Debter 105.

4.25 AYRSHIRE AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION CUP (HUNTERS CHASE) (£1,494: 2m 5f 110yd) (10 runners)

11-4 Howayrzan, 3-1 The Odin Line, 5-1 Paper O'Drummond, 6-1 Ab's Ailos, 8-1 Hopies Deligiti, Postic Iriungue, 10-1 Spartan Breeze, 33-1 other:

5.00 CAPABILITY SCOTLAND & SCOPE NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,882; 2m) (7 runners) HANDHUAF HURUUL (LE, von.) 1 2421 MR BUSBY 27 (D.S.) Mrs M Rendey 6-12-0 M H Naughton (S) 91

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRABERS D Whitans, 4 winners from 16 numers, 25 GA, A Whitans, 11 from 49, 22.4%, F Mortogh, 4 from 18, 22.2%, Mrs M Feweley, 25 from 128, 20.3%, M Farmonof 11 from 68, 16.2%

"OCKEYS A Dobbin, 33 winners from 171 sides, 19.3%, B Supple, 17 from 95, 17.9%, P Miver, 17 from 183, 16.5%, S Taylor, 10 from 64, 15.6%, B Storey, 22 from 143, 14.8%, & Maderah, 10 from 64, 15.6%, B

HEREFORD

THUNDERER 1.50 Be My Judge. 2.25 Distant Echo. 3.00 Asinbox. 3.30 Shadiann. 4.05 Gratomi. 4.40 Archer. 5,10 Pennyahei.

Carl Evans: 4.40 Mr Dow Jones. GOING: GOOD TO SOFT

1.50 BONUSFILM NOVICES HURDLE (£2,892: 2m 3f 110yd) (16 runners)

2.25 TRIPLEPRINT NOVICES CHASE (£3,160: 2m) (5 runners)

1 133F DISTART ECHO 15 (D.F.G) P Nicholis 9-11-8 ... R Thomson 2 3551 SQL ANLSIG 8 (D.S) J King 7-11-8 ... A P McCoy 3 4525 JACK 17 J Tock 7-11-2 ... R Bedamy 4 10P ROSEHURANT 28 (D.F.G) JASS V Williams 7-11-2 Widthmson 5 5005 ROYAL RAPPORT 98 (V.D.F) J O'Shea 6-11-2 Michael Bresman 11-10 Distant Echo. 2-1 Sol Music. 9-2 Resencents, 8-1 Jack, 66-2 Royal Rapport

3.00 BONUSPHOTO NOVICES SELLING HURDLE



COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRANSERS: Miss V Wirksons, 9 witness hom 23 namers, 39.1%, M Pips, 32 layer 96, 33 7%, P Michaels, 11 hom 39, 26.2%, P Ritchers, 3 hom 11, 27.3%, P R Neiber, 5 hom 18, 26.3%, P Marphy, 7 hom 27, 25.9%. JOCKEYS. A McCoy, 28 words from 91 rides, 30 8%, C Maude, 11 how 43, 25 6%; J Jules, 3 hom 14, 21 4%, D Callagher, 4 from 25, 16 0%, J McCarthy, 4 from 28, 14 3%; X Auspulu, 6 from 43, 14 0%.

5 S2-P NLIWAY 11 (F.G.S) M Barne; 9-10-11 ... S Taxfor -6-4 Hardecent, 13-8 Weaver George, 11-2 Fen Tornes, 6-1 Ractael's Owen. 25-1 Nijney.

1 /P2- ALPS ALEN 383P (C.D.G.S) Alian Dictoren 12-12-5 Mr C Mulhell (7) Mr C Muthell (7)

2 1P-F HOWAYMAN 47P (CD.F.G.S) K Anderson 9-12-5

3 33-1 PPER O'DRIMANOND 26P (G.S) Miss P Rotson 12-12-5

Miss P Robson

4 -450 BORDER GEORY 12P (S.) W M Scott 8-11-1

Mr K Remwick (7) 77

4 -450 80RDER GEORY Ter Toy Mr. K. REDIRING NO. 15 U.2-P EASTLANDS HI-UGHT 26P (G.S.) J Stately 10-11-12 NV 1 Marriago (7) 94 6 R11- THE ODIN LINE 300P (F.G) Mics J Furnes: 10-1

7 - 224 HOPES CHIEFH 12P (BF. S) N DERT 6-11 & Mar 2 HORT (7) 8 5-22 POETIC RITIFBLE 22P (BF) A TORBE 7-11 & Mir R Trotter (7) 9 30-P STRATHANDRE LODGE 28P (D.F.G) K Robicon 10-11-7 Mir R Hongam (7) 10 -P22 SPARTAN BREEZE 12P J Hopples 6-11-3 Miss L Bradburne (7)

2-1 Mr Bushy, 7-2 Bit O Magic, San Francisco, 4-1 Western General, 13-2 Jona Holley, 33-1 Ollies Bov, 100-1 Meadowleck

3.30 BONUSPRINT HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,518: 2m 3f 110yd) (8 runners)

11-4 Tremendisto, 3-1 Halona, 7-2 Shadann, 7-1 Waller's Dream, 8-1 Range Sloane, 10-1 Shu Gaa, island Vision, 33-1 Sarabaya.

4.05 DOUBLEPRINT HANDICAP CHASE

(£4,275: 2m) (9 runners) 4 4-30 CULUMEL SCAZEN THE (2F,U,F,0,5) KMS H NINDM (-717-)
D Gallagher
5 0600 DAMAS 24 (B,D,F,6,S) D McCan 8-11-5 A C Coyle 6;
6 FL22 GRATOM 74 (BF,C,D,F,6,S) P Hothers 9-11-2 . A P (ACCOY
7 312- SHADRACH 314 (D,5) Mrs H Misbby 8-10-10 ... O McPhali (s)
8 F121 COOL SPOT 25 (CD,5) G Empt 11-10-10 R Thomson
9 2122 NORTHERN SADDLER 10 (BF,D,F,6,S) R Honge: 12-10-1
P Holley

4.40 BONUSPRINT HUNTERS CHASE (£1,532: 3m 11 110yd) (10 runners)

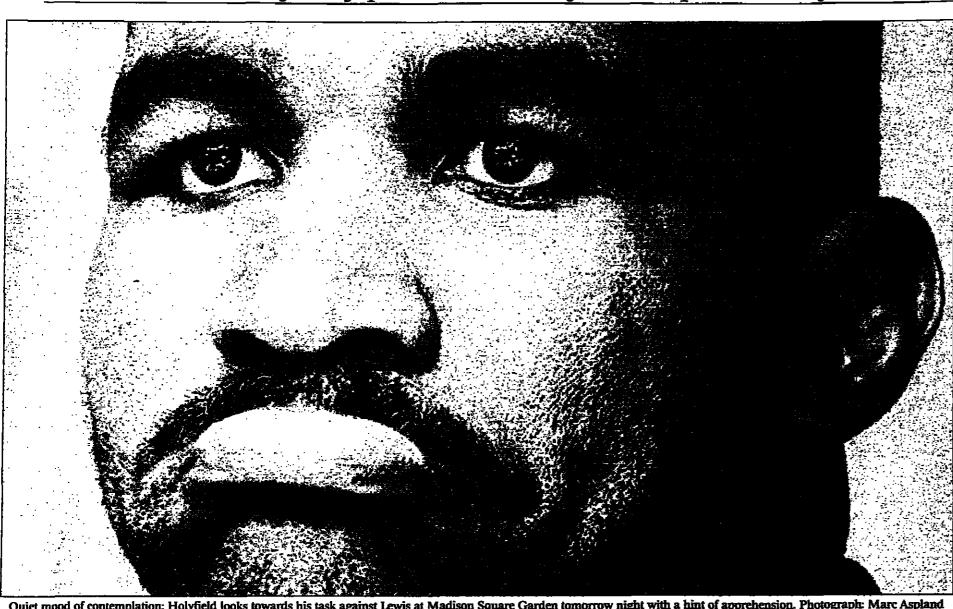
1 UF1P ARCHER 8 (CD.F.S) R Lewis 11-12-4 _____ Mr A Price (?) 2 36-1 CHARMER'S WELL 23 (G.S) G Brown 11-12-4 Mr N Fetniy (5) 3 622y EMERALD KINGCHT 705P (6) R Harney 9-12-0 Mr H Haritey (?)

6 -F11 MR DOW JUNES ZEP (6,5) MC L CORSMOTHY (-1,52) Mass P Jones
7 2/P- MR PEOPLES 383P R Hantey 7-12-0 ... Mr D Sharkock (7)
8 3PP4 NATIVE RAMBLER 8 (5) Mas A Price 9-12-0
Mr S Blackwell (7)
9 /3P- OSCEDIA 317 (5) Mass M Ree 13-12-0 ... Mr D S Jones (3)
10 P32- RUSTY FELLOW 310 (7) R Shail 9-12-0 ... Mr D Marreell (7) 2.1 Mr Dow Jones, 5-2 Charmer's Well, 7-2 Ruchy Fellow, 6-1 Archer, 10-1 Native Rambler, 20-1 Greville Again, 33-1 Emerald Respit, Oscoola, 50-1 others.

5.10 DOUBLEPRINT NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,472: 3m 2f) (13 runners)

9-4 Artic Ground, 11-4 Permyahet, 7-1 Elifeneticusco, 8-1 Weldum Boy, Alpha Leather, 10-1 September Breeze, Another Chancer, 20-1 others.

Steward feels heavy-duty punishment may catch up with Holyfield as the big fight approaches



Quiet mood of contemplation: Holyfield looks towards his task against Lewis at Madison Square Garden tomorrow night with a hint of apprehension. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Time for Lewis to come of age

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT,

IT HAS been said by an American critic of Lennox Lewis that the only way he can lift the world heavyweight championship at Madison Square Garden is if Evander Holyfield wakes up 50 years old tomorrow, the day of the bout.

Clearly the expert does not believe that there is the slightest chance of Holyfield, who is 37 this year, waking up in the ring feeling his years. Yet it happens all the time to old

Boxers can grow old suddenly in the course of a contest, as Jack Dempsey did at the age of 32 against Gene Tunney, to be followed by others such as Bob Foster, 36, against Jorge Ahumada, Joe Brown, 36, against Carlos Ortez. Sugar Ray Leonard, 34, against Terry Norris and, nearer home. Jose Napoles, 35, against John Stracey - and that after Napoles had

he black stretch limousine,

its windows impenetrably

dark, cruises away from

Madison Square Garden, A

television cameraman is in frantic

pursuit on foot, risking his neck in

the traffic of Seventh Avenue for a

brief footage of film that can only

hint that Lennox Lewis - or is it

other of the pugilists, seldom draw-

ing clear distinctions from them in

terms of personality or in probability

about which is the better. On sheer

technique. it is. or was. Holyfield,

but as boxing writer interviews box-

ing writer, the age factor and a pre-

sumed accumulation of punishment

by Holyfield, sustained in boxing

wars earlier in his long career, blur

the vision as to the eventual out-come. We shall know tomorrow.

What I could have told the camera-

man is that it was Lewis who was

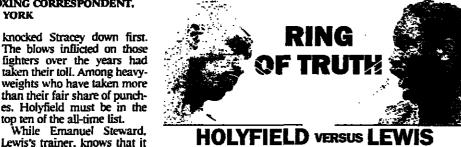
driven away from the Garden, because inside the theatre of Madi-

son Square, above the sprawling and

The blows inflicted on those taken their toll. Among heavyweights who have taken more than their fair share of punches. Holyfield must be in the top ten of the all-time list. While Emanuel Steward.

Lewis's trainer, knows that it takes only one blow in a fight to start the ageing process in veterans like Holyfield, he is not banking on it. He is not ruling it out, either. He said: "I'm not pushing that too much for this fight. but it could happen at any time because I know that all the punches Evander has taken will have their effect one day.

"Beatings are not good for you. They might make you a warrior and give you recognition, but they for sure.



he was as a boxer, had tough fights with Kenny Norton and Joe Frazier, even with George

Foreman, and all of a sudden you see the effect of the beatings. He didn't get the recogni-tion of being a warrior by being a do-nothing, running fighter. He kept taking a pounding and kept coming back. So all of it could come

damage.
"Wilfred Benitez was one of

back in this fight, too."

Jake LaMotta, who took more punches than most fighters, remains unaffected to this day, but Sugar Ray Robinson, one of LaMotta's contemporaries, suffered severely from brain

the best defensive fighters 1 have ever seen," Steward said. "But look at him now. Everybody is affected differently.

two with Holyfield. The funny should be fighting, a big, pow-thing is. Bowe did more erful kid (Lewis is 34) who is damage than Holyfield. one of the hardest punchers in "In his last fight with

Golota, he was completely shot. Yet Evander, who took a serious beating and a bad knockout in his last fight with Bowe, looks all right at the moment. We don't quite know which fight started the process

"It could have been the first fight with Evander, when they had that tremendous toe-to-toe at the Thomas and Mack in Las Vegas. So, like Bowe, Evander could go at any

Bowe suddenly had prob-lems keeping his weight down, lost his resistance to a punch and, in short, became what is

Steward believes that Lewis hits hard enough to make the contest. "I believe Lennox

the business. Lennox has not had beatings. He has had tough fights which have only made him stronger."
As far as Lewis's readiness for the contest is concerned,

Steward was more upbeat yesterday. He said that he had shown signs of improvement in his mental attitude to the fight since his move to New York from the Pocono Mountains, where he had been training for 11 weeks.
"The move has had a benefi-

cial effect on Lewis," Steward said. "The break was what he needed. Even I used to go off to Detroit to see my kids in the gym and, when I came back to camp, I felt refreshed.

"I spoke to Lennox and told him that he looked stale, but the bails of my feet, trying to usual authentic Egyptian lapis now, with the fight approachvery warm towards people,

years in prison — for killing a man in the street - brushing up on what he proclaims to be his vast philosophical knowledge.
Whatever he learnt there, the result

is close to H L Mencken's observation that "no one ever lost money by underestimating the intelligence of the masses of the plain people". King can afford to pay Holyfield \$20 mil-lion and Lewis \$10 million before he and his cohorts share the greater spoils of allegedly more than 100 mil-

lion pay-per-view subscribers. Grim? There was also pantomime in the Garden theatre yesterday, with Ricky (Sid Owen) from East-Enders, Chris Eubank and Frank Maloney, the manager of Lewis, in the supporting cast to King. Without having to open his mouth, Maloney cut a ridiculous caricature of Englishness: mannequin in size, dwarfed by King, he was dressed from head to toe in the colours of the Union Jack and beneath his squashed flat cap, also in red, white and blue, he looked every inch a stray street-ur-chin out of Dickens.

The boxers may not have the per-sonality of Ali, obviously not the intellect of Einstein, but, for however long it takes on Saturday, the sporting world on both sides of the Atlantic will be drawn to them. Even the cameraman will know which is which, particularly if one remains vertical while the other is horizontal. And then the darkness will resume.

it is a long time since he spent his

Lennox up to now.

The fighters themselves don't really talk about the science of hitting; at their final

start thrashing out these important differences.

Bobbing and weaving as the press box clever

o I was schmoozing with the local press guys wittily wearing a trilby with a fake PRESS ticket tucked into the band - and one of them rethe band — and one of them repeated what Evander Holyfield had just told him. "He
said he's fed-up with people
saying he'll fight on the
inside," he confided. "He says
he's going to fight Lewis on the
outside, too."

Which was when it happened, you see. As the others
paused to absorb this thrilling
new information. I reacted —

new information, I reacted and with all the breathtaking confidence of someone who has never watched a fight, and had until a month ago only heard of Holyfield on account of someone chewing his ear.
"That's nonsense," I said. "Holyfield's not big enough." At which the guys looked as surprised as if I'd just struck them with a fancy bolo punch (half-hook, half uppercurt, if you're interested) while whis-tling "God beared to a seeh."

It was bound to get technical, sooner or later. What's the point of watching this world heavyweight championship bout if you don't know (for example) that Lewis has a powerful left jab, while Holyfield is a whiz at hooking? Boying is a whiz at hooking? Boxing isn't brawling, you know. And on Saturday is that Holyfield and Lewis will attempt to land effective punches on each

other, a vague idea of how they'll get their fists into the right place at the right time is ⁶ I suppose obviously pretty im-portant. I've just found out what a rabbit punch is, incidentally. But it has nothing to do hopping. which is sad.

bounce around on

phoney Sometimes, in the privacy of my hotel room. I make war feels a pair of puny fists, like? turn the mirrors to

what a

anticipate how the bout will go. Jab, jab, jab, toof, toof. Hook, hook, hook, toof, oops, fell over. But it's not much use. My hooks describe the same feeble arc as a windscreen wiper and travel at roughly the same speed: my jab would shatter a poppadum (but not six) and makes my shoulder hurt. Even the balls-of-the-feet thing is tricky. And to top it all, remembering to say "toof, toof, toof" all the time is thor-

oughly exhausting.

Back with the guys, the intriguing thing about this contest is that nobody can predict what it will elicit from them technically. There is an idea that ace trainer Emanuel Steward has broadened Lewis's skills, but, on the other hand, nobody can argue with the fact that powerful slugging has been quite sufficient for

press conference on Wednesday afternoon, they wearily reiterated their postures regarding Saturday night. Holyfield said again that he would knock out Lewis in the third: Lewis maintained, boorishly, that Holyfield was a hypocrite. Oddly, though, neither of them seemed in a desperate hurry to get the gloves on and

It was a ghastly occasion, that press conference. If this is

LYNNE TRUSS



In New York

the glamorous pinnacle of box-ing, I can tell you for nothing I wouldn't want to be in Widnes on a wer Wednesday. Chaos reigned. Film crews with heavy, angular cameras on their shoulders swivelled without due regard for the safety of others. Boom mikes dangled and bobbed. Once the tuxedoed Don King took the stage. the chaos subsided, of course but at a heavy price. because then he proceeded to yell at us for a full hour so loudly that I had to put my

Toof, toof," I whispered softly, to keep my spirits up. The only mildly exciting aspect to the occasion was the discovery of Ricky Butcher, from East-Enders, sitting in the same row. I always knew that six

years as television critic would come in handy one day. I went and said helto, which seemed to alarm him, so I said goodbye as well. Meanwhile, on stage promoters, managers and fighters each gave us a wave, while to the left (for no apparent reason) Anthony and Cleonatra stood in full Vegas rig-out - Cleo-

patra adding to the lazuli headdress several duster-yellow ostrich feathers. which regrettably made her look more like a showgirl than

I suppose this is what a phoney war feels like. Last week I was dreading the fight; now I wish they'd settle it, dammit, toof, toof, hook, slice, fade, birdie, hang on, something wrong there - and show us what they can do.

I have heard so much about Lewis's jab that I've simply got to see it in action, even though I still deplore the whole bloody business. I also feel a faint urge to see one of these two champs buy a one-way ticket to Palookaville, and I never thought I'd say that in my life.

o the expertise is shaping up. I now know a knockover is not an easy heist in a post office and an "undercard" is not a novice Leslie Phillips. Did you know that "up to scratch" is a term derived from boxing? It turns out that in the 1740s a line was scratched across the centre of boxing arenas. Rounds ended in those days only when a man was knocked down. Whether to embark on another round depended on whether the contestants could both make it to the scratch; if they couldn't, the fight was over. Ask me anything, go on. But if you'll excuse me — jab. jab, feint, toof, toof — I've got some research to do.

"Look what happened to Rid- Holyfield feel his age during ance of old boxers to punches dick Bowe after just four hard varied from fighter to fighter. fights: two with Golota and is the worst guy Holyfield Fighting to make sense of the heavyweight hype

FROM ROB HUGHES, CHIEF SPORTS WRITER

Evander Holyfield? - has just left the Garden for the last time before The restraint of both boxers is a fitting response to a sport whose dark, We are all on the outside looking open secrets are incarcerated with Mike Tyson. The closest that the prein. The growing attraction of the world heavyweight unification bout tomorrow is that nobody really knows the winner in advance and. ambles have come to controversy have been when Holyfield was asked to explain his uncharacteristic like the intrepid cameraman, we boast that it will end in three rounds, focus attention daily on one or the

"Why three rounds. Evander?" evervone asks. "Because of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit," he drawls.

that he will knock Lewis out.

So the microphones move on to Lewis. "What did you mean, Lennox. when you said Holyfield is a hypocrite? If somebody says something and

does something different, to me that sounds like hypocrisy," Lewis responds. "It is preposterous that he is saying he will knock me out in three rounds and I was just trying to say that, if he's truly religious, why is he breaking the Commandments every second

unlovely Pennsylvania station. Holy-field was fulfilling his obligation to Presumably a reference to Holy-field's confession that five of his nine update the Evander Holyfield children were born out of wedlock to different women. That ought to have

riled Holyfield, but he showed the other cheek.

"I'm not a hypocrite," he replies mildly, "I'm a winner."

office in New York, working to sell the contest, have to feed on and they do it with febrile over-imagination. stating that this repartee proves the



Full flow: King, right, with Lewis

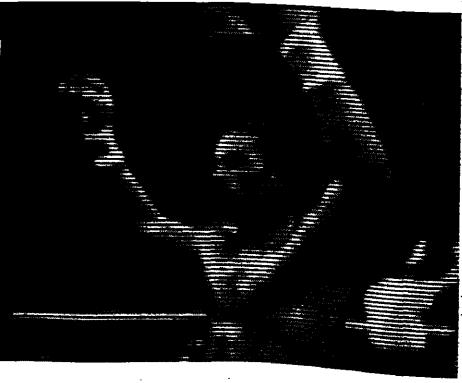
deep animosity between the rivals and between the camps. Madison Square Garden has been doing this kind of image-building

This is all that those in the box

business since before we were born. Furthermore, it was the original

home of closed-circuit television (CCTV), which began in 1955, when the inauguration of CCTV generated \$1,125,000 for the world heavyweight championship bout between Rocky Marciano and Archie Moore. By 1971, when Muhammad Ali took on Joe Frazier in the Garden, the capacity crowd of 20,455 paid a "live" take of \$1.3 million and the pay-per-view television, relayed to 35 cinemas, amassed \$20 million more, so that the pugilists could each take home \$2.5 million. The entrepreneurs took much of the fat, presumably.

nly the numbers seem to change. When Don King the promoter, is in full, deover many of the world's troubles to drum up his business, it has all the effect at close quarters of standing in front of a blow-dryer. King is 67 and



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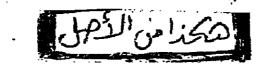
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THE TIMES FRID

FOUR players have been releas Reductional in a first wave of tancies aimed at cutting soof Allied Dunbur Premiership do rent Cabannes, Dominic Cha aurian Dayles and him Hag smith have had their exercises rated but may comme pary ammeurs. They are principless their jobs.

The cuts were intipated a review by administrators, we over the manning of the clop as: en withdrew his financial se Players have also accepted rela-in salary of either 10 or 20 per se pendent on levels of insume 3 them is Ben Clarke, the castale

You have to lead by one clarke said yesterday. "It be been an easy week for anyone gub, but we have to put that ? us as far as is possible in the ci

James ride art o capta

FROM the day that Mark Europe Ryder Cup (2004) 5 was obvious that he seems bring to the past a different style to that of his productive In the lead-up to the mark Severiano Ballierten si growing creasingly intenses from an not. During the Reder ear itself. Ballesteres scattera rataer and you like at the set speed; James, be most al. 4do everything 🚅 🤼

unhurried page The contrast in annual was highlighted again year day when it was the date of James, having just must a mi put himself in seint our place with Hothers mat + 14. spaña Masiers at the Parador Malaga del Golf, base places

alongside John Bickert 🕾 Bickertor has prograded three top-ton fictioning to prove from newbork 1984 eighth place in the ituropean arear of ment and on to the Image of the top to zen by the Ry der Clar dered it James එසුවී යන්නේ ප play with turn to run his mages terial even wer him. Ballester er other did so during the darkerey, but James, trademark heavy mony alight mack-bytedled at the very suggestion.

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"I certainly didn't be said.

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Richmond release four as crisis bites

FOUR players have been released by Richmond in a first wave of redundancies aimed at cutting costs at the Allied Dunbar Premiership dub. Laurent Cabannes. Dominic Chapman, Adrian Davies and Jim Hamilton-Smith have had their contracts terminated but may continue playing as amateurs. They are joined by six administrative staff, who have also

The cuts were instigated after a review by administrators, who took over the running of the club at the be-ginning of the week when Ashley Levett withdrew his financial support. Players have also accepted reductions in salary of either 10 or 20 per cent, dependent on levels of income. Among them is Ben Clarke, the captain.

"You have to lead by example," Clarke said yesterday. "It has not been an easy week for anyone at the club, but we have to put that behind us as far as is possible in the circumstances in preparing for Saturday's game [against Bath]."

Clarke, who joined Richmond on a three-year contract reputedly worth £100,000 a year, added: "We as players realise our importance and contribution to the business. There has been a fantastic response from everybody. Of course it is unsettling, but

you have to face and accept reality."
Newcastle Falcons, Richmond's opponents in the semi-finals of the Tetley's Bitter Cup, appear to find it easier to attract millionaire backers than supporters. In the wake of the departure of Sir John Hall, the club said yesterday that Dave Thompson and Paul Mackings, both wealthy local businessmen, had become chairman and chief executive respectively of the Premiership champions.

Thompson has acquired the 76 per cent shareholding previously held by Hall's Sporting Club for a nominal fee. As Newcastle's debts have also BROBE UNION

By Mark Souster and Alasdair Reid

been written off, his money will be used to underwrite future losses. The business expertise he acquired before retiring from the successful informa-tion technology company he founded and ran will be directed towards keeping those losses to a minimum.

Denying that there would be significant impact on the playing squad, Thompson, 55, argued that the viabili-ty of the club depended upon boost-ing attendances. "I need time to produce a five-year plan, evaluating all the issues," he said. "I believe support-ers will come to the club if they feel comfortable in their surroundings."
Squaring the financial circle will

not be easy. Even with full houses, Kingston Park's 5,500 capacity is well short of what is needed to support a wage-bill estimated at around \$1 million a year. The average attendance this season has been less than 3,500. Rob Andrew, the director of rugby. will also take a seat on the board. He will remain registered as a player but his appearances next season are like-

ly to be kept to a minimum.

Leicester have decided not to appeal against Austin Healey's extended five-week ban imposed by the Rugby Football Union for stamping. Healey will not be able to play again until April 10. Graham Henry, the Wales coach,

yesterday antempted to broker a peace formula that will prevent further discplinary action being taken against Swansea and Cardiff by the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU). The rebel clubs faced the prospect of being thrown out of the SWALEC Cup

last night for refusing to pay fines of £150,000 imposed for playing unsanctioned matches against England's leading clubs.

At separate meetings with both chubs, Henry was accompanied by Vernon Pugh. Although only a national representative on the WRU, the involvement of the influential Internation. tional Rugby Board chairman is highly significant. Henry has made it clear that the rift in Welsh rugby must be healed if the nation's playing fortunes are to improve. This week he and Robert Howley, the Wales captain, have called for peace, amid hopes that the victory in Paris on Saturday would signal a rapproche-ment between the warring factions.

The signs were that it was a forlorn hope. Both clubs are adamant that they will not pay the fines, the dead-line for which passed on February 28, while, publicly at least, the WRU is maintaining a hardline stance.

No shame in failure to cope with audacity

n the aftermath of Wales's victory against was a good deal of comment about the lack of really sound first-line defence from both teams. Since there was so much running and so many gaps appearing, the defences must have been at fault, it was

There are those who reason that a team's attack cannot be so good that it cannot be explained by a fundamentally flawed defence, while the converse is rarely promoted: a team's sound defence is never explained by the opposition's ineffectual attack. Tackling, after all, is more easily quantifiable than the subtlety that is often required to score a try.

Jean-Claude Skrela, the France coach, was the first to raise the matter. It is the coach's role, after all, to draw attention to and even accentuate the failings of his team in defeat. His job thereafter is to remedy those weaknesses.

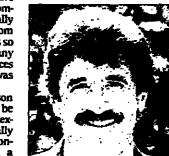
Graham Henry, his opposite number, mentioned the point, too, but his comment was more psychological than practical. In all the excitement and the celebration in his camp he had to pick on something in order to keep his players' feet rooted to the ground.

There is always a tendency to condemn a failure in defence when a try is scored. There is an assumption that since a player is within reaching distance of the man with the ball, a successful tackle can be accomplished. This is patently not so. Scott Gibbs, for example, was within touch-

ing distance of Keith Wood in the game against Ire-land but a swift unexpected shimmy from the hooker found the Wales centre, one of the hardest and most consistent tacklers in the business, at sixes and

SEVERS This happened in open play and resulted from a Welsh error and an immediate counter-attack of the type French coaches have been preaching to their team. Last Saturday, both Wales and France attacked from sive birdies, has recovered from the mass hysteria that deep within their own territogreeted her return home last ry and when the opposition year - she spent several days least expected it. It is unfair to eat — and is learning to say no to requests. "Golf is fun. It es in a game in which both teams were intent on attack doesn't make me tired," she and using the width of the

said, "but around golf makes pitch as often as possible. Keeping the play confined around the fringes of ruck and maul, not letting the ball go beyond the inside centre or arrange such movements that the ball returns to the mauls is a sure way of keeping the tackle count high. The play is in



GERALD DAVIES

Rugby Union Commentary

limited space and tactics performed to a precise pattern. Since there is little risk, errors

What tackling there was in Paris was, in fact, good. Quite simply there was less of it because of the nature of the game. To improve the tackling all the teams needed to do was to change the basis of their tactics; to be less expan-sive in other words. This is partly what happened in the second half. Relatively speaking, it was a more restrained period after the extravagances of the first 40 minutes.

It does say a vast amount for rugby that the laws can still allow two such contrasting matches as occurred at Stade de France and Lansdowne Road.

If one game appealed more to the eye than the other, this does not mean that the other was less engaging

to the mind. It should be rugby's fervent hope that it can retain the have capacity for different strategies. The adopted a attraction of the Wales v England high-risk fixture next month will be to see how strategy' the two countries.

who, on the evidence so far. employ widely different tactics, will respond to the other. England's orientation is towards their mighty pack of forwards, although their coach's desire, I fancy, is for something more varied. Wales, in all three of their fixtures, have had no real choice at their disposal, as their

for the high-risk strategy. In consequence they have paid the price in two matches but have gained richly from the events of the third. Henry is not for turning nor, it seems, are his players. Now that each country knows what to expect of the other, might they not wish to modify their strategies? If not, then which

style will come out on top?

James adds rider to art of Cup captaincy FROM MEL WEBB IN MALAGA FROM the day that Mark change any draw this season.

James was announced as the Europe Ryder Cup captain it was obvious that he would bring to the post a different style to that of his predeccesor. In the lead-up to the match Severiano Ballesteros grew increasingly intense; James will not. During the Ryder Cup itself. Ballesteros scurried hither and you like an ant on speed; James, be assured, will do everything at his own. unhurried pace.

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WALL STREET

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The contrast in approach was highlighted again yesterday when it was noticed that James, having just had a 67 to put himself in joint second place with 11 others in the Turesoaña Masters at the Parador Málaga del Golf, had played

alongside John Bickerton. Bickerton has compiled three top-ten finishes to come from nowhere into eighth menit and on to the fringe of the top dozen in the Ryder Cup points list, and somebody wondered if James had asked to play with him to run his magisterial eye over him. Ballesteros often did so during his captaincy, but James, trademark heavy irony aloft, mock-bridled at the very suggestion.
"I certainly didn't," he said.

"In fact, I'm determined not to

BADMINTON

If guys are trying to make an impression, you should not do anything to put more pressure

reveals his integrity and shows, too, the benefit of having been in a similar position himself in the Ryder Cup seven times, as a matter of fact. When you are trying to break free of the peloton, the last thing you want is your team captain climbing all over your mudguards.

James did, though, admit that there were circumstances in which he would consider tampering with the draw. "If I found that I was paired with somebody who is on the limit, I might ask not to play with them," he said. A good egg is

His joint best round of the year left him two strokes off a Outrici, who had nine birdies in his 65, seven under par. For years, the Swiss was a golfing equivalent of Nottingham Forest - too good for the first division (the Challenge Tour), not good enough for the Premiership (the European Tour) but last year he made the final broke through into a comfortable midtable position. To continue the analogy, if



Bickerton unleashes a drive during his round of 68 alongside James yesterday. Photograph: Paul Severn/Allsport

he were to keep this form up he would challenge for a place in Europe, or at least its golf team. And is he likely to? Hardiy. One round does not a summer make and Quirici is unlikely to be in the same place at the end of the tournament. Neither should Darren with a subdued 73. Clarke spent four hours on the practice ground after he had stomped off the course. James

LINKS

did not go and watch.

Pepper makes fiery start FROM PATRICIA DAVIPS

MORNING was the time to play in the first round of the Welch's/Circle K Championship, at Randolph Park, Tucson. Arizona, yesterday, if the believed. What began as a gen-tle, desert day, ideal for scor-ing, was going to turn into a dust-blowing, rip-roaring one. with winds of 30 miles an hour.

Dottie Pepper, the United States Solheim Cup player, started as she meant to go on with a birdie three at the 10th. her first hole, and at the turn she was four under par, one IN TUCSON

Se Ri Pak, of South Korea. who won two major championlast season, was in the chasing group, one shot behind, alongside a host of Americans that included Juli Inkster. Danielle Ammaccapane and Tammie Green, who no longer has the bump that aroused such interest at the Solheim Cup last September. The bump is now a little girl called Tina Marie, who arrived on December 3.

me tired sometime, sometime upset. I need 50-50, good balance of myself and my game." Lisa Hackney, of Stafford-shire and Florida, who started at the 10th, was out in one under par after a birdie four at

TELEVISION: Sky Sports 1, 1pm (kve) 7,30pm (highlights) shot ahead of the rest. Se Ri, who started with a FOR THE RECORD

MALAGA: Turnspirins, Mesters: Loeding first-round scores (Great Britan and internal, 85: P Ource (Great Britan and internal, 85: P Ource (Switz) 87: A Cabrers (Arg.). D Borrego (Sp.), F Windhester, M James C Hanell (Swe) F Jacobson (Swe), F Lindgren (Swe), D Edlund (Swe), G Orr, P-U Johnsson (Swe), D Garbuth, R Gonzalez (Arg) 65: M Turnschif, J Botterion, K Tomon (Lipan), T Golgele (Ger.), JM Cambes (Sp.), A Harsen (Den), G Owen, 89: D Smyth, M Pinero (Sp.), M A Martin (Sp.), B Ours, M Olandor (Swe), D Cooper, P Broadhurs, D Gdond, M Scarpe (ti), M Farry (Fr.), M A Jimherz (Sp.), M Pilongton, S Webster, M Florioth (II), I Gree (Sp.), S Torrence, V Prailigs, A MeLizarly (SA), P Fuller (Swe) Other scores: 71: S Ballesteros (Sp.) 72: J M Olazabal (Sp.), D Clerke (GB)

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NIHL): Carolina 2 Prissungh 3 (07), New York Rangers (Otlawa 3, Chicago 5 Nashville 2: Dallas 7 Edmonton 4 Anahern 4 Vancouver 4 **RUGBY UNION**

SNOOKER

BIDIAN WELLS, California: Chempions Cape Second round: M Fins (Chile) to C Poine (F1) 7-6, 6-1 X Maisse (Bell bi G hanssore (Cro) 7-6, 6-3 h Kupera (Slovaka) hamesevic [Cro) 7-6, 6-3, N. Kucura (Storelas)
tot I. Hearti Vius) 7-5, 6-3, J. Sementa, [Hoth
the F. Meisperi (Gr) 6-4, 2-6, 6-4, G. Rusadski
(GB) tot S. Dreer (LS) 6-3, 6-3, R. Krajcek,
[Hoth) tot J-M. Germell (LS) 6-7, 7-5, 7-5, C.
Woodholf (US) to P. Hashibus (Holh 7-6, 6-3,
M. Sefin (Russ) tot J. Dreelston (LS) 6-2, 7-6,
M. Philippoteses (Aus) tot A. Correta (Sp) 4-6,
7-5, 6-2, T. Martin (LS) tot F. Cavet (Sp) 6-2,
3-6, 7-6, F. Merbila (Sp) tot J. Counter (LS)
8-7, 3-8, 6-3, C. Moya (Sp) tot J. Counter (LS)
7-6, 6-4 WTA Every (Cury Custrater-finalise S.
Testad (Fr) tot H. Nagyona (Stovaka) 6-1, 6-3,
C. Ruben (US) to M. Hungs (Saut 5-6, 3, 7-6, S.
Grad (Ger) tot J. Navorna (C2), 6-2, 6-0, S.
Williams (US) to M. Pierce (Fr) 7-5, 7-6

TODAY'S FIXTURES

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

Nationwide League * Bristol Rovers v Futham (7 45).... ANERONO LEAGUE Premier divisio

Northern Ford Premierable Oldham v Barrow (7 45).... OTHER SPORT

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BRIMING-HAME: All-England: chromolom-shiper Men: Singless First round: P Gede Christenson. (Den) bt M Mahesky (Indo) 15-12, 15-11; S Belsini (Indo) 18 P Hinder (Eng) 15-8, 11-15, 15-6; P Jamum (Den) bt G Bruysters (Holl) 15-6; J-5-12. A Boessin (Den) bt R Dobing (Eng) 15-10, 15-6; K Jonessen (Den) bt R Milloy (Carr) 15-8, 15-15. Delayarso bt 8 (Dober (Gen) 15-9, 11-15, 15-7; T Stue-Laundson (Den) bt F Kohler (Den) 15-7, 15-2; Chen Gang (China) bt R Nock (Eng) 15-12, 15-3; P E Hoyer-Larson (Den) bt R Kesson (Bul) 15-1, 15-7; F Permedi (Falvern) bt C Robertson (Scot) 15-3, 15-4, J Hadilouzma (Lepan) bt A Nock (Eng) 15-12, 15-2; K Octum (Den) bt M Consuble (Eng) 13-15, 15-6, 15-9; Naz Nazarze (Christ) bt P Goplothend (Indo) 15-13, 15-6; P Knowles (Eng) bt T Ohissias (Jepan) 15-8, 15-12; Second plannic Knowles bt R Scidik (Malayasa) 12-15, 15-13, ret. T Hotyet (Indo) bt Park Tise-earng (S Kor) 15-5, 17-16; R Hesthim (Malayasa) bt Octum 15-5, 15-1; Permedi bt R Agustrus (Indo) 15-4, 15-6; Hoyer-Larsen bt Xia Xiance 15-11, 15-11; Second 15-2, 15-7; Star (Bed) 15-6, 15-6; Wong (Chon) Harm (Malayasa) bt Soesen 15-2, 15-7; Star Laundson bt Chen Weil (China) 15-8, 15-8, Hendrawan and Chen Weil (China) 15-8, 15-8, Hendrawan

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(Indo) bt K Fangel (Den) 15-10, 15-8; Balein br J Fischer (Den) 15-9, 15-13; Palyame bt B Pochen (Scot) 15-7, 13-15, 15-7; Harbiusums bt J Brochen (Scot) 15-7, 13-15, 15-7; Harbiusums bt Jensum 6-15, 15-10, 15-8; F Machida (Japan) bt N Lesman (Fr) 15-6, 7-15, 15-8, 15-13; Weigen (Indo) bt Jonessen 15-13, 3-15, 15-13; Women: Singles: Final rosend: M Poher (Shoreng) bt D Julian (Con) 11-5, 11-6; E Angelino (Indo) bt Beamhaister (Hai) 11-1, 13-12; S Elemonglotolessen (Tha) bt H Schonharting (Gen) 11-5, 11-6; E Angelino (Indo) bt Beamhaister (Hol) 7-1, 11-7, 13-10, S Dembour (Fr) bt Lee Hyo-Jung (S Kor) 1-1, 11-8, 13-10, M Sorensen (Den) bt Jon (Hall) 11, 11-8, 13-10, M Sorensen (Den) bt Jon (Hall) 11, 11-8, 13-10, M Sorensen (Den) bt Jon (Hall) 11-1, 11-4, J Merclendiks (Hol) bt Poher 11-4, 11-1, Angelino bt K Michalosses (Gen) 11-1, 11-6, 11-1, Angelino bt K Michalosses (Gen) 21-11-1, 11-6, 11-2, De Jun (China) bt K Schmandson (Cen) 11-2, 11-6, Geng Zirichan (Chara) bt L Dischendoper (Indo) 11-6, 11-1, 11-1, Lee Young-won (S Kor) bt Elemontphotolessen 11-2, 2-11, 11-1; Cindana bt S West (Scot) 11-2, 11-2, M Ausine (Indo) bt C Roth Ut J Steesynska (Po) 11-1, 11-0, Y Mizu (Japan) bt J Pitand (Eng) 11-0, 11-2, 11-4, M Taniele (Japan) bt T Resmussen (Den) 11-2, 21-0, Michaelessen (Lepon) bt T Resmussen (Den) 11-2, 20-10.

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Second Test match New Zealand v South Africa HISTOHURCH (First day of five, New stend won loss). South Amca, with all thrings workest in hand, are 114 runs and hisw Zasland. NEW ZEALAND: First Imangs

26. 168 - 168 - 168 - 168 - 168 - 168 - 168 - 169 - 16 SOUTH AFRICA: First Innings

MLNG: Doub 6.5-2-8-0; Allott 9-2-29-0; h 4-0-15-0; Asile 0.1-0-0-0; Vettori 1-0; Slead 1-0-1-0. pres: K T Francis (Sri Lanka) and D M Quested. DIFFIGURE SHELD: First day of four: Bourne: Victors 252 (M P Most 108, 1 J sey 77: J Angel 5-64), Wastern Austrella Adulatede: Queenstand 239 (M L Hay-177, P Wilson 5-60): South Australia 1 Hobert: Tesmanle 256-8 (J Cox 128) sw South Wates

CYCLING

FOOTBALL Wednesday's late results FA CUP: Shith-round replay: Chels Man Uid 2

Man Utid 2
FA CARLING PREMIERSHEP: Brackburn
1 Everton 2 Derby 2 Aston Vills 1. Leeds 2
Totterham 0, Nortim Fores 1 Newcastle 2
NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Second divi-sion: Stoke 0 Reading 4.
SCOTTESH LEAGUE: First division: Clydebank 1 Faluk 2.
DR MARTENS 1 PAGUE: Midland division: DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Michard division: Newport AFC 2 Paget 1; Solituli Borough 5 Blakerall 3, VS Rugby 3 RC Werwick 1 RYMAN LEAGUE: First division: Molesey

Belainell 3, VS Rugby 3 RC Werwich 1
RYMAN LEAGUE: Finat division: Molesey
0 Canvey Island 0
HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Cachmeuddin 4
Fores Mechanos 1, Kenn I Rothes 0, Peterhead 2 Cove 3
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION:
Finat division: Norwork 2 Barnet 1, Charlest AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION:
Finat division: Norwork 2 Barnet 1, Charlest 6 Cambodge 1; Northampton 3 Mithaell 0, Quisens 7 and Rengers 3 Lucion 1, Totlenbara 6 Sendon 2 Wirmblecton 0 Wycombe 0
PONTIN'S LEAGUE: First division: Transers 2 Barnsley 3 Second division: Harles 1 Authorities 1 Authoriti

Kontrill, 1 Genk 3.

DUTCH CUP: Obuster-final: Feyencord 2
Vitesse Anthem 1 (Feyencord wn on golden goal rule)
GERMAN CUP: Sensi-final: VII, Wolfsburg) Werder Bremen 1 FRENCH LEAGUE: Lens 1 Montpellier (); Lonent 1 Rennes 1, Lyons 2 Auterre 1, Mo-naco 0 Merz 0: Pans Saint-German 0 Nantes 0: Strasbourg 1 Basta 1, Toulouse 0 Le Havre 0 ITALIAN CUP: Florentina 2 Bologna 2 (aet. Florentina win 4-2 on agg)

UNISCHED LEAGUE PROMOTE EMBLY V Worksop
THE TIMES PA YOUTH CUP: Fifth
COUNT! Novcasie v Middlesbrough
SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: First
divisions Limesady v Dungarmon Swite. FAI HARP NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Sr Painck's Altr v Bohamians (7 45).

FA PREMIER ACADEMY LEAGUE: Under-19: Coventry v Peterborough (1.0): OPR v Wimbledon (1.0). Shelled Wednes-day v Nottinghem Forest (1.0). Under-17: Peterborough v Covertry (1.0). RUGBY LEAGUE

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: New-cestle Eagles v Leaguster Robus (7:30). MOTOR RALLYING: Vaucheti Ratly of Values

TELEVISION CHOICE

Laughter for charity

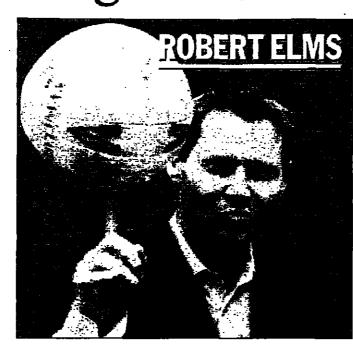
Football's new luvvies wrong to view Eighties as decayed

or the past fortnight a series of highfalutin, highly intellectual debates under the title "Edge Of A Dream" have been taking place at the Royal Festival Hall. It's been an attempt to analyse "the cultural and stylistic impact of the 1980s with the likes of Andrew Mart and Polly Toynbee, Peter York and Bill Buford, Blake Morrison and Andrew Motion.

Despite covering almost every base from fashion to literature, pop to politics, there was not a single seminar on the great game. (Especially strange given that, at the end of the Eighties, Buford wrote Among The Thugs, the most risibly silly bit of soccer slumming ever attempted by an American academic in Doc Martens and arguably the first sign of the literati and the luvvies noticing what millions of ordinary souls actually did

every Saturday.)
We've had the Eighties poprevival with Duran Duran, Culture Club and Heaven 17, so it's about time we reassessed the footballing decade that dare not speak its name. The Sixties are endlessly mythologised. The Seventies sideburns, long hair, Chopper Harris, Leeds United et al are seen as some misty-eved golden age. Yet for some rea-son (OK, Heysel and Hillsborough are both very good reasons), the Eighties are rarely celebrated, despite the fact that the tightest shorts worn in public outside of the annual Gay Pride Parade were sported week in, week out.

Certainly one of the good things about the Eighties is that it was a time when supporters were infinitely better dressed than players. Which is surely as it should be. These days, football is horribly fashionable and its stars appear in



fashion shows and dress in Armani while fans are woefully inelegant. A dozen years ago, though, footballers wore shellsuits and football was deemed profoundly un-chic. Yet the fans were immaculate. You didn't see flocks of sheep donning acrylic replica strips designed by the chairman's sister-in-law. Instead the ter-

races (remember those?) were the catwalks of the masses as style wars were fought out by legions of als boasting the

latest de rigueur designer duds. (Often "liberated" during continental shopping sprees that coincided with European games.)

The reason that such vicious sartorial battles took place in our charmingly antique and bijou stadiums is actually that

the violence, usually considered to have been an Eighties problem, had largely subsided by then, at least inside the

It was actually in the late Sixties and Seventies that the foot-ball ghettos were at their most perilous. By the Eighties the hordes of consenting juveniles, who posed and preemed on the

Legions of Jeremy-come-latelys

pontificate outside Highbury?

rigorously policed ends, had

largely sublimated their

aggression into a magnificent-

ly bizarre and thoroughly Brit-

ish fashion phenomena, which

would have kept armies of

semioticians in government

grants. Except no self-respect-

ing academics or sensitive arty

archetypes ever soiled their flared denims by venturing to something as thoroughly déclassé as a football match. Now that there are legions of Jeremy-come-latelys queue-

ing outside Highbury and pontificating on every aspect of the game, it's easy to forget how lowly football was deemed to be in the Eighties. Fans were frogmarched and

strip searched, vilified and demonised. We were England's cultural untouchables, sneeringly de-scribed by Mar-

tin Amis as "having the breath and complexion of a packet of cheese and onion crisps". Now, in the sanitised Nineties, Amis is a born-again football fanatic.

You had really to love the game to go in the 1980s, but then you could go in the 1980s.

My prediction a few weeks ago that we would have to suffer an Arsenal v Tottenhan Hotspur FA Cup Final is now looking a distinct possibility. And, as a result, we are witnessing a

phenomenon that I can only call Final a phobia Shaky Spurs fans, who have witnessed the impressive form of their neighbours with more than a little dread, are scared witless of the ssibility of handing Arsenal the double double. One of them said to me: "I would rather go out in the semi-final than face the

The people who play and profit from the sport may love sold-out grounds, but it's a bitch for fans, who get ripped off and locked out.

ignominy of losing to the Gooners in the big

one at Wembley."

Entry then was still cheap and you could pretty much pick any match and turn up on the day. I regularly went to Arsenal v Spurs derbies, despite caring little for either lot. The atmosphere was always thrillingly belligerent while essentially safe, the singing joy-ous if virulent and the stylistic

Football in the 1980s had its back to the crumbling, graffiticovered wall; it was embattled, embittered but immaculately turned out. All in all it was a bit like being at war. And as in so many conflicts, the survivors remember it as the time our lives. Especially because Chelsea were spectacularly useless for the entire

BBC1,7pm The annual knees-up goes on until lam, live as always, so often subject to changes. But you can count on the usual suspects to bounce the fund-raising along. Hosts include Lenny Henry, Denise Van Outen, Zoë Ball, French & Saunders, Julian Clary, Jack Dee and Jonathan Ross. "Alan Partridge" takes over from 9pm to 9.30pm on BBC2 and then it's back to Lenny. Thanks to Channel 4 we've also got Chris Evans for a special TFI Comic Relief. And megastars appear in the oddest places ... Johnny Depp. Woody Allen, Matt Damon, Whitney Houston, David Bowie, be, as usual, plenty of those sometimes hard-to-watch film inserts about Third World poverty and how Comic Relief projects are tackling it.

> Return to the Lost Gardens of Heligan Channel 4, 8pm

Comie Reilef: Red Nose Day 1999

And so we say farewell ... to the memorable Cornish gardens and the double series about restoring them to their former glory. More than 300 years old and cared for through the early years 300 years old and cared for through the early years by the Tremayne family "in the big house", the 150-acre estate is virtually perfect again. The Sun Dial Garden looks exquisite and John Nelson and Tim Smit are in their boat to further explore "the Lost Valley". Reminiscent of Monet this, with its tuninous water paths and arched bridge into nowhere. As there isn't anyone in the big bouse now to finance the gardens, it is essential that visitors supply the funding and last year's dripping summer didn't help.

Trust Me. I'm a Doctor BBC2, 8pm (except Northern Ireland)

Friday Play: Fisher of Men

Radio 4, 9pm

Dr Hammond opens his show gulping a ham-burger and confesses that he likes junk food. No wonder one warms to the man. But he then goes on to explain how stuffing it down contributes to, er, gas. "The average adult produces a litre of gas a day." There are myriad "good" bacteria in the

Gerri Halliwell sees how Comic Relief helps people around the world (BBCI)

intestines which break down our food and help to cause the wind — but the bacteria themselves can be humoured as you'll see. Also brace yourself for an elderly patient who gets her severely ulcerated leg treated with maggots. These creatures went out of fashion when antibiotics came in, but now that so many superbugs are defeating this medicine the maggots are back and being purpose-bred.

Channel 4, 9,30pm

This pacey, funny series — really a thinly disguised satire on the pop record industry — is ending tonight without the attention it has deserved. Of course it's no Spinal Tap but over the weeks the far from fab four and their various hangers on have developed into fully rounded characters. Now they're in the charts at No II (rival band Boyz Limited are at the top) and the writer-producer Limited are at the top) and the writer-producer Richard Osman's docusoap approach watches how they cope with such ignomony. (Nicky puts his trust in Jesus), Luckily for them all, a tame Bosnian terrorist blows up their rivals bus. The wrong bus — the bomb was meant for Boyz Unlimited — but at least now the field is clear to rise and rise again.

BBC WORLD SERVICE

5.00am The World Today 7.00 World News 7.15 Outlook 7.55 My Century 8.00 World News 8.05 Westway 8.20 Of the Shelf Letters From My Windmill 8.35 Science in Action 9.00 World News 9.05 The Art of Translating 9.20 John Peel 9.50 Sports Round-Up 10.00 Newsdeek 10.30 Ritain Today 10.45 Your Questions Of Feith 11.00 Newsdeek 11.30 Focus on Feith 12.00 World News 12.05pm Outlook 12.45 Sports Round-Up 1.00 Newshour 2.00 World News 2.05 Science in Action 2.30 Best on Record 3.00 World News 2.05 Science in Action 2.30 Best on Record 3.00 World News 3.05 Footbell Earla 3.15 Performance 3.30 The Virtage Chart Show 4.00 World News 4.15 Insight 4.30 Multitrack: Alternative 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Businese Report 5.45 Sports Round-Up 6.00 World News 6.15 Britain Today 6.30 Focus on Faith 7.00 World News 7.05 Science in Action 7.30 Your Question Of Faith 7.45 Off the Shelf Letters From My Windmill 8.00 Newshour 9.00 World News 9.05 World Business Report 9.20 Britain Today 9.30 Best on Record 10.00 World News 10.15 Sports Round-Up 10.30 Multitrack Alternative 11.00 World News 11.05 Outlook 11.45 Insight 12.00 The World Today 12.30am Science in Action 12.55 My Century 1.00 The World Today 1.30 Meridian Books 2.00 The World Today 2.30 People and Politics 3.00 The World Today 2.30 People and Politics 3.00 The World Today 2.30 People and Politics 3.00 The World Today 3.30 World Business Report 3.45 Insight 4.00 The World Today 4.30 Weekend

Report 3.45 insight 4.00 The World Today 4.30 Weekend

6.00em Nick Beiley's Easier Breakfast. Music to get the day off to a fine start 8.00 Henry Kelly. The Hall of Ferne Hour and Classic Masterpiece 12.00 Lunchtime Requests. Jane Jones plays favouritie music 2.00pm Concerto. Delius (Notin Concerto) 3.00 Jamie Crick. Continuous Classics, plus sport updates and travel news 6.30 Newsnight. Top stories and Interviews with guests from the arts world 7.00 Smooth Classics at Seven. John Brunning Introduces classic sounds 9.00 Evening Concert. Delble Wissman (Conversation for Orchestre); Fichard Rodney Bennett (Partita); David Matthews (Burnham Wick); Beethoven (Overture, Corloian Symphony No 8); Fichard Strauts (Horn Concerto No 2) 11.00 Mann at Night. Music through the small hours 2.00em Concerto. Delius (Violin

RADIO CHOICE

Radio 3, 11.30pm

Radio 4, 9pm
This is a terrific piece of work by David Constantine, a voice play in verse and prose. The fisher is the Rev Stephen Roos Hughes and the story tells of the events that led up to his early death. The voices are those of Hughes (loan Meredith) and his parishioners, a dwindling band in a poor, isolated Welsh community. Most have gone over to the Methodists ("the fishers were backsliding to the old gods since the new one wasn't working"). Hughes asks God for help: "Send us a wreck or a million fish". The wreck duly arrives in the form of the Royal Charter, which This mammoth series on the history of jazz is proving a constant delight and tonight Russell Davies performs a considerable service for anyone who still thinks that Louis Armstrong was a soppy sort of fellow whose main claim to fame was singing What A Wonderful World. In reality of course Sarchmo was a consummate trumped the course of training the manufacture of the course of the service of the s player and tonight's programme concentrates on his recordings with the Hot Five in Chicago during the mid-1920s, shortly after he returned to the city following a stint with Fletcher Henderson's big band. These records were to be the making of arrives in the form of the Royal Charter, which Armstrong as a brilliant soloist and they provided the solid foundation for his long career fronting jazz ensembles of every size. Peter Barnard was cast on to the North Wales rocks by the storms of 1859. The consequences are to be far-reaching and fatal.

RADIO 1 (BBC)

6.30am Zoe Bell 12.00 Jo Whiley 2.00pm Mark Raddiffe 4.00 Dave Pearce 6.00 Pete Tong 9.00 The Longest Radio Show in the World — Ever! 11.00 Westwood: Radio 1 Rap Show 2.00am Fabio and Grooverider 4.00 Emma B

RADIO 2 (BBC)

6.00am Serah Kennedy 7.30 Weise Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 12.00 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Ed Stewart 5.06 Des Lynam 7.00 Morisy at the Musicals (66) 7.30 Friday Night is Music Night. From the Demgate Theatre, Northampton 9.15 Single and Single. By John Ie Carré (3/8) 9.30 Listen to the Bend 10.00 David Jacobs 10.30 Sheridan Morley 11.45 The People's Psaims 12.00 Lynn Parsons 4.00am Leta Sharma

RADIO 5 LIVE (BBC)

12.00 The Midday News with Allan Robb 1.00pm Ruscoe and Co 4.00 Drive with Peter Allan and Jane Garvey 7.00 News Exits 7.30 Alan Green's Sportanight. Studio guests discuss the week's sporting issues. Followed by live second-half commentary on Bitistol Rovers v Fulhern 10.00 Late Night Live TALK RADIO

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 Breakfast 9.00 Nicky Campbel

6.00am The Big Boys Breeklast 9.00 Scott Chisholm & Selly James 12.00 Motoring 1.00 Anna Reabum 3.00 OK! to Talk 5.00 The Sports Zone 8.00 Nicky Home's Access all Areas 10.00 Dave Barrett 1.00am Miles Dickin.

VIRGIN

6.30mm Chris Evens 9.30 Russ Williams 1.00pm Nick Abbot 4.00 Harriet Scott 7.00 Wheels of Steel 11.00 Janey Lee Grace 2.00mm Steve Power

6.00am On Air Petroc Trelawny announces the winner of a new competition in Prague for young

of a new competition in Prague for young musicians
9.00 Mesterworks with Peter Hobday, Gerniniani, after Corelli (Concerto grosso in D minor (La folia); Brahms (Pretude and Fugue in G minor); Stravinsky (Jeu de cartes); Tartini, arr Kreisler (Variations on a Theme of Corelli); Beethoven (Symphony No 7 in A)
10.30 Artist of the Weelc Kyung-Wha Chung
11.00 Sound Storlest Indian Summers Donald Madeod remembers the later years of Reiph Vaughan Williams
12.00 Composer of the Weelc Delitus
1.00pm The Redio 3 Lunchtime Concert Paul Barriti, Vaughan Williams
10pm The Redio 3 Lunchtime Concert Paul Barriti, Opin, Catherine Edwards, piano. Elgar (Violin Sonata in E minor, Op 82); Walton (Tocceta); Albert Sammons (Bagatesle, Op 3; Reve of entiant, Op 10; Dance caprics, Op 15; Petite chanson) (r)
2.00 The BBC Orchestras Uister Orchestra under Niklas Willen, Hinckami Juni'cht and Kanneth Montgomery, Mark Kapfan, violin, Music Includes Pucchi (Pretudio Sinfonico); Respighi (Suite: The Birds); Menoti (Volin Concerto); Sibelius (Lemminicianen Suite)
4.00 Mostic Restored Lucie Skeeping introduces a Spenish edition featuring songs and guitar music by Fernando Sor and Dionisio Aguardo (r)
4.45 Music Machine Verity Sharp Looks at small-scale instruments (r)

Music through the small hours 2.00am Concerto. Delius (Violin Concerto) (f) 3.00 Mark Griffiths. The Early Breaklast Show

5.00 In Tune Sean Rafferty is joined by Thomas
Hampson to discuss famous Italian duets in the operatic repertoire for baritone and bass
7.30 Performance on 3 Live from St David's Halt,
Cardiff. BBC National Orchestra of Wales under Nicholas Kraemer, with Catherine Bott and Rachel Bliott, sopranos, Robin Blaze, countertenor,
Andrew Murgatroyed, tenor, Matthew Hargreaves, bertone, BBC National Chorus of Wales. Handel (Water Music: Suite No 2; Silete Venti; Concerto a due cori No 1 in B Ital) 8.25 Handel in the Strand, Vivaldi on the Phone. Mark Russell takes a quizzical look at the history of Baroque music: 8.45 Concert, part two. Handel (Diot Dominus)
9.40 Postscript Radio Poems — Marfan by Peter Reading (5/5)
10.00 Here and Now Verity Sharp presents The Operator of the Mouth, a major new work by Richard Barrett for voices, instruments and electronics
11.30 Jazz Century (Sounding the Century)

htchard Barrett for voices, instruments and electronics

11.30 Jazz Cerntury (Sounding the Century)
Presented by Russell Davies. See Choice (r)

12.00 Composer of the Weels: Tohaltowsky (r)

1.00am Through the Night 1.00 Gluck (Paricle ed Elena). Roberta Alexander, soprano, Claron McFadden, soprano 3.15 Schubert (Overture in the Italian Style; Symptony No 9 in C) 4.20 Each (Cantata No 21) 5.05 Schumman (Farry Tales, Op 132) 5.30 Giovanni Paolo Cima (La pace) 5.35 C.P.E. Bach (Concerto in F for two harpsichords)

RADIO 4

5.30em World News 5.35 Shipping Forecast
5.40 Inshore Forecast 5.45 Prayer for the Day
5.47 Parming Today with Rachel Morgan
6.00 Today with John Humphrys and Sue MacGregor
8.35 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament Political news
9.00 Desert Island Discs The Australian conductor
Charles McKerras reflects on his cares (f)
9.45 (FM) Serial: The Pleasures of the Table Anna
Massey reads extracts from Honey from a Weed
by Patience Gray
9.45 (LW) An Act of Worship
10.00 Woman's Hour with Jenni Munray
11.00 Sharisa and Seeguills: A Summer With Sussex:
In the first of two programmes, David Stafford
follows the efforts of the new regime at Sussex:
County Cricket Club to overtum more than a
cantury of underachievement (1/2) (f)
11.30 Samny Side Up The Gee Boys enter the last
barbershop heats before the grand finale in
Harrogate (5/6)
12.00 (LW) News 12.04pm You and Yours Consumer
issues and public service reports, presented by
Liz Barday and John Waite
1.00 The World at One with Nick Clarice
1.30 Puzzle Panel Chris Maslanka presents riddles
and brain-teasers
2.00 The Archers Yesterday's edition (r)
2.15 Attermoon Play: Family Affair A woman finds it
hard to accapt her new love's children — and
their mother. Paul Bown and Lesley Nightingale
star in Jayne Hollinson's tale (r)
3.00 Changing Places Howard Stableford explores
the creative use of natural resources at Earth
Beiance, Northumberland, and in Sandiord,
Devon. Last in series
3.20 Shorelines Strangford Lough, Northern Ireland,

Devon, Last in series

3.30 Shorelines Strangford Lough, Northern Ireland, headquarters of the UK's mud-rescue coastguerd

3.45 This Sceptred Isle Part 50 of the history of Britain, namated by Anna Massey (f)
4.00 Booticish James Naughtie and guests talk to William Boyd about Brazzaville Beach, his award-winning novel (f)
4.30 The Message Alex Brodie and his guests discuss current media trends
5.00 PM with Nigel Wrench
6.00 Stx O'Clock News
6.30 The Sumday Format John Morton's cornedy about the stories generated by a fictional weekend newspaper. Staming Rebecca Front, Simon Greenall and Tony Gardner. Last in series (4/4)
7.00 The Archers Ambridge calebrates Red Nose Day
7.15 Front Row Live arts programme
7.45 The Cry of the Bittern Environmental drama, by Tim Jackson. Broadcast earlier as part of Worman's Hour (20/30) (f)
8.00 Any Questions? Audience members from Thatcham in Berishire address panellists

8.00 Any Questions? Audience members from Thatcham in Bertshire address panellists including John Redwood, Glerys Kinnock and Lord Jenkins. Chaired by Jonathan Dimbleby 8.45 Letter from America by Alistair Cooke 9.00 The Friday Play: Fisher of Men David Constantine's tale. See Choice 10.00 The World Tonlight Robin Lustig presents 10.45 Book at Bedthme: Emest Hemingway Centenary — The Sun Also Risses The final part of Hemingway's famous novel 11 90 Late Niight on 4: Late Tackle Beanor Oldroyd chairs the sporthing magazine

chairs the sporting magazine

11.30 (LW) Today in Parliament Political update

11.30 (FM) Sport in the Movies Part one. Pal Butcher
mestigates the Instory of sport on film (1/2)

12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: Golf Dreams

The American novelest John Updike recalls his pession for golf. Last in series 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 720. RADIO 5 LIVE. MW 693, 909. WORLD SERVICE. MW 648; LW 198 (12.45-5.55em). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO. FM 105.8; MW 1197, 1215. TALK RADIO. MW 1053, 1089. Telavision and radio listings compiled by Perry Cleveland-Peck, Ian Hughes, Gillian Maxey, Jane Gregory and

A letter arrived on my desk recently on House of Commons headed notemper. No. it wasn't in invitation to take over from David Mellor as head of the Football Task Force, but a response from Stepe Pound, Labour MP for Ealing North, whose minute Thad taken in vain in this column. I find Joke historic how, in the aftermath of the Ron Davis Chiphan

how, in the aftermath of the Ron Davis Chiphane.
Common affair, he was receiving a little stick at
Westminster for the "Up The Cottagers" stickes he
displays proudly in the back of his car.

Amid much joshing about the present successful,
his side, he admitted, with some suddens that his
eight year old son has rejected the Riversiders in
favour of QPR. The biggest problem he farest some
explaining to one so young why the Rungers tampile
is called A Rick Up The R's (surely not as tricky all
One F in Fulliam, his own team's fan roug. But all

One F in Fulham, his own trans's fair read—but fair could have a far more tricky his of explaining arithm to do.

There are plans about by some meery Historic supporters to celebrate their expected promiting the dressing up for the last game of the mason of his leather queen gear, to revel in their constantions in his cape, chaps, though a type of atthrevancy seem and protein football grounds. It's just a good job that their related playing Livernoof that day. playing Liverpool that day.



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t is well known that Stephen Fry has a strong streak of yellow running through him — he is a life-long and still devoted Norwich City fan — but it comes as more of a surprise to learn that the heir apparent to the Wildean crown, one of the most urbanely brilliant minds in Great Britain, has become besomed by arguably the

most lumpen sport of them all. On Parkinson the other week, Fry admitted that he had been spellbound by the aesthetic and artistic merits of this year's Embassy world darts championship final, from the glittering arena of dreams that is the Lakeside Country Club in Frimley Green.

Hearing him wax lyrical about the new

Dutch masters, Raymond Barneveld and Co Stompe (do they play total darts, I wonder?), the organisers, anxious to drag their sport upmarket, spotted a PR coup and invited Fry to the final next year.

So if you see a large, not particularly athletic-looking chap, glass and fag in hand, deep in concentration down Frimley Green way and he isn't one of the players, no, you haven't been drinking more than Cliff Lazarenko and it isn't Barry Pry. Providing, that is, that one hurdle can be overcome.

"I'm looking forward to it immensely," Fry said from his table at Le Caprice in Mayfair. "Except I'm not exactly sure where Frimley

BOWLS

Scotland have prize in sight

SCOTLAND, who beat Wales on Wednesday, took two steps towards retaining the Hilton Trophy yesterday, first when they defeated Ireland by 45 shots in the home international series at Bournemouth yesterday morning, then when England, who were expected to be their closest challengers, were surprisingly beaten by a

spirited Welsh side. With five winning rinks out of six, the Scots suffered a surprising reverse on the rink skipped by Alex Marshall, who won the world indoor singles championship in January. Marshall's brother, Robert, was skipping on an adjacent rink and the contrasting fortunes of the two men was

the talk of the stadium. Alex Marshall, who was 15-10 ahead at 12 ends, lost 30-18 to a rink skipped by Noel Gra-ham, of Belfast; Robert Marshall was level, 12-12, with the rink of Gary McCloy after Il ends, but went on to win, 33-13. Graham Robertson, who was 15-0 ahead after nine ends, and Graeme Archer.

who scored 15 shots to five in

the second half, returned win-

ning cards of 26-12 and 27-12

respectively, while Willie Wood and Jim Muir won by

more modest margins.

BY DAVID RHYS JONES

The 26-9 victory by John Price over David Cutler laid the foundations for the Wales win over England, but the form of Jeff Webley, who is skipping for his country for the first time this week, was a revelation.

Scottish hopes of winning the British team title for the eighth time in nine years are now high. Even if they were to lose to England today, the Scots are still likely to win the championship on shots countback, having established a healthy advantage of 74 shots in earlier games.

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 46 HEADAGE

(b) The number of animals, taken from head. "Abbey-Cwm-Hir Fox Destruction Society have decided to pay headage money on rabbits and carrion crows, as well as foxes, that are killed in the society's area." MOUTAN

(c) The tree peony, Paeonia suffruticosa, of the family Ranunculaceae, a large shrub bearing pale pink flowers, native to China and Tiber.

LAULAU (b) A portion of a Hawaiian dish of meat and fish wrapped in leaves and steamed or baked. Also, this cover of leaves. Hawaiian, reduplicated form of lau a leaf.

INTERFERON (a) A protein released by an animal cell, usually in response to a virus, which has the property of inhibiting further development of viruses of any kind in the animal. "The investigation of interferon, a chemical substance produced in men and animals and believed to act as the body's first line of defence against a wide range of virus infections, passed a critical stage in May 1962."

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE Solution: IBxg6! fxg6 2 f7+ Be5 3 Qf6+! Bxf6 4 Bxf6 checkmate.

made do wi throppenny cap-guns and rifles

dles. But we were 'appy! Little lads

nowadays; they're not content wi'

out they've got a four-foot Super-Lasertronic-Space-Soaker wi'

nuclear explosion sound-effects,

which can floor an old-age-

pensioner at 50 yards. Or a \$96 bil-

lion International Space Station. New Star in Orbit, last night's

edition of Horizon (BBCZ), was an

awe-inspiring story. Never in the

field of human toy collection has so

much been paid by so many to so few. Well not so few, actually: the

United States space station conceptualisation and hypotheti-

cal design industry supports a

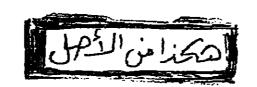
large, thriving community of bottoms and research outfits at the

It was clear immediately that Ed

Harriman and Lara Hannay, the

producers, were a trifle scentical

American public's expense.



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SKT ONLE
7.00em Count Duclude (78831) 7.30 The
Chris Evens Breefdast Show (31102) 8.30
Holywood Squares (59928) 9.00 Saly
Jessy Rophael (51725) 10.00 Oprah WinIrey (53522) 11.00 Gulbyl (73358) 12.00
Janny Jones (89783) 1.00pan Med About
You (77102) 1.30 Jeopardy (88299, 2.00
Saly Jessy Rephael (31812) 3.00 Jerny
Jones (71893) 4.00 Gulbyl (90829) 5.00
Sar Tret. Voyager (2657) 8.00 America's
Dumbest Criminals (4299) 6.30 Pierand
R251) 7.00 The Simosons (1090) 7.30 The (8251) 7.00 The Simpsons (1096) 7.30 The Simpsons (7763) 8.00 Beat the Crusher (91302) 9.00 Really Caught in the Act 21369 10.00 Cops (3373) 10.30 Cops (3983) 11.00 Priends (91657) 11.30 Star Trisk Voyager (23164) 12.30am The Commiss (43042) 1.300 Long Play

sie Team (1997)

6.00am A Change of Heart (1997) (72229) 8.00 The Wedding (1997) [53034) 10.00 Carpool (1996) (89396) 12.00 Barning Secret (1998) (49657) 2.00pm A Chenge of Heart (1967) (13657) 4.00 The Wedding (1997) [6541) 8.00 Carpool (1996) (26631) 8.00 Star: Treix First Contact (1996) (36676) 10.00 Dentar's Peak (1967) (29990) 11.50 The Spilling (1997) [513454] 3.40 The Big Mart (1990) (31572836)

5.05am Race Against the Hervest (1987) (40026270) 7.00 Shapherd on the Rock (1994) (63183) 9.00 Que (1976) (42828) 11.00 They Won't Believe Mr. (1947) (19812 1.90pm Shepherd on the Rock (1994) (46744) 3.00 Que (1978) (27980) 8.00 Demnation Alloy (1977) (68305)

presented the case for the prosecu tion very effectively. I suppose, for the sake of balance, we ought to see a defence of the project, but ! doubt it would be as convincing. We have known since the dawn

of "the space race", apparently, that unmanned probes are vasily more effective research tools than manned expeditions and that they are a minute fraction as expensive. You can get a probe a billion miles past Saturn, sending back full col-our snaps for the amount it costs to design a set of astronaut's spacepants. Or something like that. During the Cold War, the problem was always keeping ahead of the Soviet Union. The United States discovered, like Nazi Ger-

many before it, that the Russians

had a knack of stealing a march on

you, even with vastly inferior

resources. An ingenious but

simple solution will often do the

super-sophisticated, high-tech one. ing, and their documentary

The original pitch was for America's bigger, better space station to cost \$8 billion and take ten years to complete. Agencies usually make "low-ball" estimates, we were reminded, but this must take some kind of record. Fifteen years later the figure has been revised to \$96 billion over 21 years, and they have only just launched the first component into space. We are still six

t was bad enough that they got the first man into space; they had to go and build the first space station, too. It was this, apparently, that got President Reagan going, and the boys from Nasa were invited to present him with a series of models of spaceships. There were sceptics in the US Treasury from the outset, but once Nasa got the toy-box out and Ronnie got to pick the models up, their cause was lost.

REVIEW



Hoggart

years short of target completion so, according to my thumbnail cal-culation, the final cost could rise even further to about \$163,000 trillion, roughly. Even at today's estimate you could teach a lot of semi-literate Americans to spell for such sums. Or wipe out starvation in several developing countries.

The purpose of the project has also kept shifting with the political climate. During the Cold War it

and development facility with commercial, medical and doubtless military spin-offs. Then it was to be a launchpad for an enormous-

less manned flight to Mars. Nowadays it's all about international neace and harmony, largely because the Americans discovered that the Russians were way ahead on recycling sweat and urine, and they needed to half-inch all that primitive but practical technology. The proposed station is now so big that it could eliminate the benefit of a low-gravity environment for medical experiments, and even

ly difficult and completely point-

those are dubious it seems. It will be the most expensive object in human history. "This thing just stands in the way," said a cynical scientist, bitter at the diversion of revenue from genuinely useful research. But nobody, just nobody, will have a bigger toy. Wheeler Dealers (BBC2)

gramme has pitted two teams of salespersons against each other on a series of money-making challeng-es. The publicity describes them as would-be "Arfur Daleys", after the dodgy entrepreneur in Minder. To emphasise this point the teams were given Reliant three-wheelers, just like Del Boy Trotter in Only Fools And Horses. Pardon?

bump. This quirky little pro-

ise a night at a club. Simon, a would-he City whiz-kid with a public school-effect voice, who kept banging on about the need to be ruthless and amoral in business and ignoring all advice because it wasn't ruthless enough, made about 12p. He looked like a right merchant banker. The teams did a bit better this

ast week they had to organ-

week, mainly by selling pants. My nephew and his friends used to use the word "pants" as a term of deri-

My space station is bigger than yours stuff on market stalls. Well, pants went down really well at Walthamstow and Kempton Park, perhaps because they were "genuine" Calvin Kleins at a fiver for a pack of three. The series at least taught us that successful hustling is hard work. Otherwise, I'm sorry to say

it was rather "pants". So, sadly are British heavyweight boxers, when challenging for the world title. Lee Evans -Kings of the Ring (Channel 4) was a highly entertaining Cook's tour of these "game", "plucky", "spunky", buildog-spirited chaps gening knocked flat by Americans, or remaining standing with their faces drenched in ketchup. Only Joe Bugner avoided these fates, bravely dancing backwards for 15 rounds. Lennox Lewis has a North American accent, so on Saturday who knows? But it's not the winning that counts, is it? It's how you wear those pants!

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (96386) 7.00 Breakfast News (1) (32015) 9.00 Kilroy (1) (2651831) 9.45 Wipeout (5393396) 10.10 The Vanessa Show (T) (7540270)

10.55 News; Weather (T) (3100657) 11.00 Change That (3110034) 11.25 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (T) (3180893) 11.55 News; Weather (T) (7068831) 12.00 Call My Bluff (82134)

12.30pm Top Tip Challenge (r) (4641589) 12.55 The Weather Show (1) (53785589) 1.00 One O'Clock News (1) (35102) 1.30 Regional News; Weather (59607164) 1.40 Neighbours The truth about Bianca emerges (T) (35747522)

2.05 Ironalde A party host is the victim of a murder ettempt. Starting Raymond Burr and Don Gallowsy (r) (5968367) 2.55 Through the Keyhote (r) (T) (3213742) 3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays (6504164) 3.45 Spider (5168763) 3.50 Smart on the Road (9880676) 4.05 Red Nose Day

1999 (4199305) 5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (139270) 6.00 Stx O'Clock News; Weather (I) (947) 6.30 Regional News Magazine (299) 7.00 Comic Relief The fun starts here as Lenny Henry and Denise Van Outen kick off a mammoth

seven hours of fundraising (T) (709725)



Zoe Ball co-hosts the fundraising

7.45 Johnny and Zoe Johnny Vaughan and Zoe Ball introduce Griff Rhys Jones' record-breaking gunge challenge and a unique episode of Doctor Who starring Rowan Atkinson (T) (658893)

8.30 French and Saunders Dawn and Jennifer take over the reins as Boyzone perform the Comic Relief single When the Going Gets Tough, and Peter Sni announces the lotal so far (1) (7251) 9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (1) (5015)

9.30 French and Saunders Ride Again A special episode of Hetty Wainthropp es featuring Victoria Wood and the cast of Coronation Street (T) (25164) 10.00 Jack, Jonathan and Julian Messrs Dee, Ross and Clary continue the comic mayhem (T) (961251)

10.45 Davina Live with Lenny With guests Reeves and Mortimer and Graham Norton (T) (845909) 11.30 TFI Comic Relief With Chris Evans,

Kathy Burke and Gazza (1) (61725) 12.30am Blast from the Past with Ben Elton A look at some of the highlights of previous Comic Reliefs (1) (65042)

1.00 Carry On Loving (1970) Saucy cornedy about an unconventional marriage agency run by seedy Sid James, aided

and abetted by Hattle Jacques. Directed by Gerald Thomas (T) (8753955) 2.25 Weather (9776503) 2.30 BBC News 24 (8827619)

BBC2

7.00am Children's BBC Breakfast Show: Zem Children's BBC Breeldast Show: Pingu (7579812) 7.05 Teletubbies (2833152) 7.30 Snorks (8431725) 7.50 Short Change (3549096) 8.18 Rewind (3980367) 8.20 Taz-Mania (5137386) 8.40 Polka Dot Shorts (1185034) 8.50 Pingu (1181218) 9.00 Storytime (7703034) 9.10 See You, See Me (4435909) 9.30 Numbertime (8824015) 9.45 Come Oursele (8812270) 10.00 9.45 Come Outside (8812270) 10.00 Teletubbies (96725) 10.30 Megamaths (1873454) 10.50 Look & Read (1693218)
11.10 Landmarks (3366928) 11.30
Engish File (4522) 12.00 Scene (82116)
12.30pm Working Lunch (36270)
1.00 Johnson and Friends (68004164)
1.10 War Walks The British attack on

Normandy (r) (T) (41835560) 1.40 Hart-Davis on History (35768015) 2.10 Awash with Colour (56528164)

2.40 News; Weather (T) (3372454) 2.45 Match of Their Day (T) (4759928) 3.25 News; Weather (T) (4892980) 3.30 The Village (r) (9549812) 3.55 Kaye Advice show (9557831) 4.25 Ready, Steady, Cook (1) (6243676)

4.55 Esther (T) (5228657) 5.30 Today's the Day (1) (676) 6.00 The Simpsons (r) (T) (275034) G.25 Robot Wars: Grudge Match Special Craig Charles presents (1) (250725)
 G.55 Top of the Pops Gall Porter introduces

Boyzone; Cher; Vengaboys; Skunk Anansie; Stereophonics; Whitney Houston; and Blur (1) (342454) 7.30 Country House The Tavistocks' plan for a new golf course on the estate causes tension with the villagers (T) (725)

8.00 Citate Trust Me, I'm a Doctor Dr Phil Hammond takes a closer look at the bowel (T) (6386) 8.30 Gardeners' World Stephen Lacey meets the Hollywood garden designe Jay Griffiths (T) (5893)

9.00 Alan Partridge Livel As BBC1 breaks for the news, the hapless broadcaster takes over (T) (3657) 9.28 Welcome to Las Vegas (1) (852251)-

9.30 Timewatch investigation into the Roman campaign in Dacia (r) (T) (846218) 10.20 Several Careful Owners Messerschmitt bubble car (r) (911 10.30 Newsnight (T) (848096) 11.15 Births, Marriages and Deaths Terry



Jeanne Moreau stars in François Truffaut's classic drama (12.10am)

Truffaut's romantic drama following the lives of an Austrian and a Frenchman who both fall for the same girt. Jeanne Moreau stars (597232)

1.50 Later with Jools Holland Includes music by Simply Red and Smashing Pumpkins (r) (2111619) 2.55 Weather (5418435)

3.00 BBC Learning Zone: GCSE Bresize Revision: Spanish (16684) 5.00 Close

5.30am ITV Morning News (18638) 6.00 GMTV (5822589) 9.25 Trisha (1) (8054218) 10.30 This Morning (T) (44669812) 12.15pm HTV News (T) (4157454) 12.30 FTV Lunchtime News (T) (4636657) 12.54 HTV Crimestoppers (53771386)

12.55 Getaways (r) (T) (9063367) 1.30 Home and Away Geraldine steals the show (T) (35776034) 1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (9585198) 2.40 Wheel of Fortune (T) (7813706) 3.10 NV News Headlines (T) (4891251)

3.15 HTV News (T) (4890522) 3.20 CTTV: Mopatop's Shop (4811015) 3.30 Timbuctoo (5165676) 3.35 Animal Slories (9870299) 3.45 Giggly Bitz! (9883783) 4.00 Pump It Up (6342947) 4.35 Comin' Alcha (3106763)

5.00 Home and Away Geraldine steals the show (r) (T) (4928) 5.30 Sportsweek Sport highlights (102) 5.58 HTV Weather (980454)

6.00 HTV News (T) (265) 6.30 ITV Evening News; Weather (1) (367) 7.00 Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right Game show (8/16) (T) (4164)



Fiona Ailen stars as Julia Stone, Mike Baidwin's new rep (7.30pm)

7-30 Coronation Street Learne gets proof that she's pregnant (T) (251)

Final adition of the home improvement series, with Carol and her team making DIY dreams come true for neighbours in Newbury, converting a loft and installing 8.30 You've Been Framed! Compilation of video howlers (r) (T) (2947)

9.00 Who Wants To Be a Millionake? Ultimate blg-prize game show (T) (1947) 10.00 Infidelity The attermath of illicit alfairs Last in series (3/3) (T) (4034) 11.00 ITV Nightly News; Weather (T) (882560) 11.20 HTV News and Weather (T) (751251)

11.30 Wonderful You New drama series starring Greg Wise and Richard Lumsden (1/7) (r) (T) (56893) 12.30am ITV at the Reading Festival Music including performances by Symposium

and the Bluetones (r) (92348) 1.30 Leahy in Concert The Cetic band perform (r) (2951955) 2.05 Club@vision Dance scene (2047868) 2.50 The Haunted Fishtank The irreverent TV review with Ed Half (r) (8768023)

3.20 Short Story Cinema A baltered housewife tries to escape her abusive husband by enrolling in evening classes, but her first lesson soon turns into a nightmare. Manangela Pino stars (12216226) 3.50 Trisha Shown earlier (r) (T) (9242752) 4.50 ITV Nightscreen Behind the scenes of ITV programmes (43067329)

5.00 Coronation Street (r) (T) (86684)

/s HTV West except 12.20pm-12.30 Central News; Westher (T) (7395522) 12.55 Home and Away (T) (4644676) 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (T) (4265270) 2.10-2.40 Wish You Were Here? (f) (T) (56555218) 3.15-3.20 Central News (T) (4690522) 5.30 Surprise Gardeners (1-16) (102) 6.00-6.30 Central News at Sto; Weather (T) (265) 11.20-11.30 Central News; Weather (1) (751251) 11.30 Late Tackle (9/11) (54:541) 12.35am FILM: The Lookalike (1) (387077) 2.15 Club@vision (2036752) 3.00 Box Office America (1) (12205110) 3.25 The Haunted Fishtank (r) (12215597) 3.55 Central Jobfinder '99 (T) (5577313) 5.20-5.30 Asian

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except 12.15pm-12.27 Westcountry News; Weather (T) (4157454) 12.27-12.30 Small Talk, Big Talk (7303541) 12.55-1.25 Westcountry Lunchtime Live (T) (4644676) 1.25 The Jerry Springer Show (1) (4209270) 2.10-2.40 Home and Away (1) (56555218) 3.15-3.20 Westcountry News; Weather (T) (4890522) 4.58-5.00 Birthday People (7906473) 5.30 Westcountry Weekend (102) 6.00-6.30 Westcountry Live; Weather (T) (265) 11.20-11.30 Westcountry News; Weather (T) (751251) 11.30-1.30 FILM: Stir Crazy (30218)

MERICIAN As HTV West except: 12.15pm-12.30 Meridian News; Weather (4157454) 12.55-1.30 Shortland Street (9063367) 5.30 Streetwise (102) 6.00-6.30 Meridian Tonight (†) (265) 7.29-7.30 Meridian Weather (801893) 11.20-11.30 Meridian News; Weather (†) (751251) 5.00am-5.30 Freescreen (†) (86684)

ANTER

As HTV West except: 12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (7314657) 12.20-12.30 Anglia News and Weather (7395522) 12.55-1.30 Shortland Street (9063357) 5.30-6.00 Off the Beaten Track (7/10) (1) (102) 6.00-6.30 Anglia News (1) (265) 11.19 Anglia Alr Watch (308218) 11.20-11.30 Anglia News and Weather (1)

Starts: 5.55em Sesame Street (r) (20298034) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (67980893) 9.00 Ysgolion: Off Limits (99277386) 9.25 Schools Work (29818218) 9.30 Eureka (74178589) 9.45 Stop, Look, Listen (74166744) 10.00 The Complete Cosmos (14113015) 10.10 TVM (91905980) 10.25 laith ar Daith (91924015) 10.45 Enter the Maths Zone (96214299) 11.00 The Technology Programme (15077560) 11.15 Pa Newydd? (15067183) 11.30 Powerhouse (T) (68332473) 12.00 Home Improvement (T) (97111541) 12.30pm Sesame Street (1) (26946386) 1.00 Planed Plant (1) (67963980) 1.30 Travelog Treks (1) (54863251) 1.40 Fit.M: Angels One Five (1) (79755473) 3.30 Collectors' Lot (1) (67216164) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (1) (67235299) 4.30 Dishes (T) (67224183) 5.00 Planed Plant (90216909) 5.30 Countdown (T) (1) (67248763) 6.00 Newyddion 6 (1) (93564096) 6.10 Heno (1) (86054299) 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (1) (90229473) 7.30 Newyddion (1) (67225812) 8.00 Cefn Gwlad (1) (90205893) 8.30 Y Clwb Rygbi (1) (90224928) 9.00 Pawb a'i Fam (37476034) 10.00 Brookside (1) 772781386) 10.35 Fresier (1) (3588589) 11.05 So Graham Norton (83873473) 11.45 TFI Friday (41146218) 12.45am Celebrity Deathmatch (1) (91302435) 1.35 The RuPaul Show (1) (3978459) 2.10 Late Toon: Planet Apathy (95553936) 2.15 The Mod Squad (90608226) 3.15 Vids (r) (51851665) 3.45 FILM: The Face of Fu Manchu (31779503)

CHANNEL 4

5.55am Sesame Street (4389386) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (25725) 9.00 Schools: Off Limits (8920819) 9.25 Schools at Work (8972928) 9.30 Eureka (8819163) 9.45 S(0p. Look, Listen (8814638) 10.00 The Complete Cosmos (5135454) 10.10 TVM (9012928) 10.25 1798 and After (9024763) 10.45 Enter the Maths Zone (9354367) 11.00 The Technology Programme (3228096) 11.15 Stage One (3241947)

11.30 Powerhouse (T) (9218) 12.00 Sesame Street (T) (96164) 12.30pm Bewitched (r) (T) (38638) 1.00 Pet Rescue (T) (28812)

1.30 Australia Wild (r) (T) (3911676) 2.05 Edge of Eternity (1959) A sherifi links three unsolved murders to an argument over the ownership of a disused gold mine. Thriller, stamng Cornel Wilde. Directed by Don Siegel (1) (6956386)

3.30 Collectors' Lot (1) (473) 4.00 Fitteen-to-One (F) (980) 4.30 Countriown (T) (3105034) 4.55 Ricki Lake (1) (5213725)

5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (744) 6.00 TFI Friday Guests Andy Williams and James Nesbitt join Chris Evans and music comes from Echo and the Bunnymen and Travis (T) (46657) 7.00 Channel 4 News (1) (354299)

7.55 The Outlaw Time is running out for Michael (T) (238183) 8.00 CROICE Return to the Lost Gardens of Heligan A look ahead to the future of Heligan (1) (1454) 8.30 Brookside Rvan loses his cool, while

Mother's Day brings cold comfort for Nıamh and Jackie (T) (7779) 9.00 Friends Phoebe's identical two navs a visit, leading to multiple mishaps and misunderstandings (r) (1) (8725)



Frank Harper stars as the band's

9.30 CHOICE Boyz Unlimited Things go from bad to worse for the band as Nicky seeks solace in the Bible, while Gareth turns to Elton John (T) (41102) 10.00 Frasier The Seattle shrink is set up on a

blind date (T) (97893) 10.30 So Graham Norton (842812) 11.10 Access All Areas A lashion shool using disabled models (T) (522676)

11.40 Celebrity Deathmatch Fanlasy fights between celebrities (973541) 12.30am 4 Later; The RuPaul Show (8322503) 1.05 Late Toon: Planet Apathy (1271619) 1.10 The Mod Squad A dying girl goes on the run and the gang lear she may set off a meningitis epidemic (3120503)

2.10 Vids Offbeat video review (r) (2161508)

2.40 The Face of Fu Manchu (1965) Christopher Lee debuts as the netarious villain, who tries to take over the London underworld with an attack on an English village. Directed by Don Sharp (285752) 4.20 Prometheus and Domingo (3686868)

CHANNEL 5 6.00am 5 News and Sport (3630294) 7.00 WideWorld Part 16 Continuin education in the workplace (r) (1 (8096947)

7.30 Milkshake! (2511473, 7.35 Wimzie's House (r) (4590102) 8.00 Hevakazoo (r) [2713725] 8.30 Dappledown Farm (r) [2712096] 9.00 Nancy Lam (r) (T) (5517003) 9.25 Russell Grant's Postcards (4372744)

9.30 The Oprah Winfrey Show (6887283) 10.20 Sunset Beach Gregory reveals his secret to Annie (T) (3569386)

11.10 Leeza (r) (7016675) 12.00 5 News at Noon (T) (2716812) 12.30pm Family Affairs Pele has a nasty shock (t) (T): 5 News Update (1194034) 1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful A lashion

cntic praises Sally's show (T) (8095218) 1.30 The Roseanne Show Entertainment and chat with the outspoken comedian; 5 News Update (1193305) 2.00 100 Per Cent Gold (9072034)

2.30 Good Afternoon (1670522) 3.30 Bridesmaids (TVM 1989) Drama charting the laughter and tears of four friends reunited at a wedding for the first time in 20 years. Shelley Hack and Sela Ward star. Lila Garrett directs (4812473) 5.10 Sunset Beach (r) (T) (8314251)

6.00 100 Per Cent Outz (1) (2316015) 6.30 Family Affairs Pete gets corneuppance (T) (2307367) 7.00 5 News; Weather Round-up of the day's

stories (T) (9043522) 7.30 Natural Passions The work of the wildlife vet David Cooper, who is responsible for transferring rhinos, leudu and lions to reserves throughout Africa

(T); 5 News Update (2396251) 8.00 Cops in the Sky How helicopters enable the aerial police to catch more than 100,000 criminals every year, 5 News Update (8407541)

9.00 Murder in New Hampshire (1991)
True-life crime drama about a high-school teacher who grows bored with her maniage and manipulates a love-struck student into killing her husband. Staming Helen Hunt, Chad Alten, Ken Howard and Howard Hesseman. Directed by Joyce Chopra (T); 5 News Update (81171589)

10.50 Pottergelst: The Legacy Nick picks up a mysterious hitch-hiker (r) (T) (4910541) 11.45 Delta of Venus (1994) An erotic novelist meets an American author who helps her fantasy tales come true. Adult drama, staming Audi England. Directed by Zalman King (6020096)

1.40am Near Mrs (1990) Premiere Fast-paced larce, with Judge Reinhold as a bigamous executive working on a top-secret Pentagon project. Co-starring Casey Siemaszko. Directed by Baz

Taylor (4216771) 3.20 Hey, I'm Alive (1975) Fact-based adventure charting two plane crash survivors' efforts to stay aive in the trozen Yukon wilderness. Directed by Lawrence Schiller (52018787)

4.35 Russell Grant's Postcards A visit to Wimbledon (r) (38711400) 4.40 Prisoner: Cell Block H (7007874) 5.30 100 Per Cent (r) (8608481)

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Fallen (1998) SKY (60X OFFICE 3 (Transponder 59) Plubber (1997) SKY BOX OFFICE 4 (Transponder 58) SKY PREMIER

SKY MOVIEMAX

7-30 P: Havew (8154) 7-30 D: 10p 10 2831) 8.00 Femmes Felales: Sheron Stone (5812) 8.20 Movie Magic (4947) 9.00 187 (1997) (39305) 11.00 Maurder at 1600 (1997) (746170) 12.50am Shedow Conspiracy (1997) (833229) 2-35 The Silence of the Haoss (1993) (859874) SKY CINEMA

4.00pm Buck Privates (1941) (7196015) 6.00 The Desperain Hours (1955) (2696169) 8.00 Honkytonk Nam (1962) (201909) 16.00 The French Connection (1971) (7813270) 11.46 French Connection (1971) (4809386) 1.40em The Rain-bow (1968) (1721400) 3.35 The Hound of the Bestervilles (1939) (61835313) FILMFOUR 8.00pm Short Attention Span (4121636) 8.00 Cabaret (1972) (13300589) 1d.10 Sosnaers (1989) (9300218) 12.00 Rabiet (1978) (9598228) 1.35am Pierrot le Fou (1968) (9059874) 3.30 French Klas (1995) (4547139) 6.00 Close

TNT 9.00pm WCN Nitro (29/36522) 11.35 WCW Thunder (99337056) 1.15am The Fearless Vampire (Ullers (1967) 9/1366369 3.15 The Karnet (Ullers (1967) (13821400) 5.00 Close SKY SPORTS 1

6.30ear Futures in Sport 7.00 Sports Centre 7.15 Wresting 8.15 You're On Sky Sports 9.00 Recing News 8.30 Aerobics 18.00 Big 9,00 Recing News 9,30 Aerobos 18,00 Big Pight Countdown 10,30 Spanish Footbell 12,00 Aerobiss 12,30pm Big Fight Countdown 1,00 Live Golf 8,00 Fusbol Mundiel 8,30 What A Weekend 6,00 Sports Centre 7,00 Boxing: Big Fight Countdown 7,30 European Tour Golf 10,00 Sports Centre 11,30 Boxing: Big Fight Countdown 11,30 Hold the Back Page 12,30em Sports Centre 1,30 World Wreetling Federation. Rew 3,30 Sports Centre 4,30 Boxing: Big Fisht Countdown 5,00 Mes Power ight Countdown 5.00 Mex Power SKY SPORTS 2

7.00am Aerobics Oz Style 7.30 Sports Centre 7.45 Racing News 8.15 What A Weekend 8.45 Sports Centre 9.00 Fish TV. Tight Lines 10.00 US Golf 12.00 The Rugby Culo 1.00pm for Hockey 3.30 Boxing. Big Fight Countdown 4.00 Trans World Sport 5.00 The Rugby Cub 6.00 Moto-Plus 8.30

U15's Football 9.30 Boxing Big Fight Countdown 18.00 US Golf 12.00 Cycling 12.30pm International U15's Football 2.30 **SKY SPORTS 3**

11.30mm Futures in Sport 12.00 Trans World Sport 1.00pm Fishing: Tight Lines 2.00 Bobby Chariton's Footbell Scrapbook. 3.30 Survivor of the Fittest 4.00 Footbell Lasque Review 5.00 World Sport Special 5.00 Fastras 6.00 Cycling 6.30 Inside the Senior PSA Tour 7.00 Max Power 8.00 Rugby Union 10.00 World Wrestling Federators Raw 12.00 Close EUROSPORT_

UK GOLD

OK GOLD

7.00em Crossroads 7.30 Neighbours 7.55
EastEnders 8.30 The Bill 9.00 The Bill 9.30
When the Boat Comes in 10.30 Finds
11.00 Dellas 11.56 Neighbours 12.25pm
EastEnders 1.00 Juliel Bravo 2.00 Dellas
2.55 The Bill 3.25 The Bill 3.35 EactEnders
4.30 Finds 6.00 All Creatures Grazi and
Small 8.00 Dynasily 7.00 Ever Cecreasing
Crotes 7.40 Deaf's Army 8.20 The British
Empire 9.00 The Thin Bute Line 9.40 Henry
Enfield and Chums 19.20 Ruby Wax Meets
Bill Cooby and Fen Dynascher 11.00 The Bill
11.30 The Bill 12.00 Doctor Who. The
Chase 1.45pm Bille's Seven 3.00
Shopping with Screenshop

Emmerdale Farm 10.00 Upstairs, Downstairs 11.00 The Gantle Touch 12.00

Classic Coronation Street 12:30pm Emmertiale Ferm 1.00 The Many Wives of Patrick 1.30 Me and Ny Girt 2.00 Usstains, Downstains 3.00 The Love Boat 4.00 The Professionals 5.00 Hart to Hart 6.00 Emmerdiale Farm 6.30 Classic Coronation Street 7.00 The Professionals 8.00 The

Page 10 Constitution of the State of St

GRANADA PLUS 5.00era Within These Walls 7.00 Holding the Fort 7.30 The Odd Couple 8.00 Hallelugh 8.30 The Many Wives of Painck 9.00 Classic Coronetion Street 8.30



Michael Ironside stars as a ruthless telepathic assassin in David Cronenberg's classic sci-fi horror Scanners (FilmFour, 10.10pm)

Benny Hill Show 9,00 The Sweeney 10,00 The Bnan Conley Show 10,30 Wheel-tappers and Shuriters' Social Club 11,00 eda Men and Motors **CARLTON SELECT**

5.00pm What's Cooking? 5.30 Gridlock 6.00 London Bridge 5.30 Our House 7.00 Boon 8.00 Blue Heelers 8.00 Love Hurts 10.00 The Good Sex Guide 10.30 The Screen 11.00 Hill Street Blues 12.00 Grown Ups 12.30pm Gridlock 1.00 The Lest Place on Earth 2.00 Close DISNEY CHANNEL

8.00sm Gumm Bears 8.25 Classic Tooris 6.35 Tele Spin 7.00 Classic Tooris 7.10 Abadim 7.35 101 Datmatins 8.00 Ggo! Troop 8.25 Classic Tooris 8.45 New Adventures of Winne the Poon 8.00 The

Advenues of winne ing Poon 8.00 The Advenues of Spot 8.05 Animal Shefi 9.16 Pocket Dragons 9.30 Bear in the Big Bluc House 9.55 The Toothbrush Family 18.00 Bite Scor 10.10 Rose and Jim 10.30 The Big Garage 10.45 PB and J Oter 11.00 Sesame Street 12.00 The Adventures of Spot 12.05pm Animal Sheff 12.15 Pocket

Dragons 12.30 Bear in the Big Blue House 12.55 The Toothbrush Family 1.00 Big Size 1.10 Rosse and Jim 1.30 The Big Garage 1.45 PB and J Otte 2.00 New Adventures of Winnie the Poch 2.30 Quack Pack 3.00 The Little Mermard 3.30 Art Arack 4.00 The Telemotics 4.30 New York The TV 5 New Dalmations 4.30 Hercules The Ti Companies and resture in Fig. 18 of Superior Sup 11.00 Touched by an Angel 12.00 Close

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Adventures of Dodo 6.05 Power Rangers Turbo 6.30 Power Rengers Turbo 6.30 Power Rengers Turbo 6.30 Power Rengers Turbo 6.35 Spidermen 7.20 Oggy and the Codoroeches 7.30 Donkey Kong Country 8.00 Hero Turbes. The Next Musation 8.25 The Incredible Husi. 8.50 from Man 9.15 Fantesiac Pour 9.40 X-Men 10.05 Cesper 10.30 Oggy and the Cooloroeches 10.55 Eek/Stravagaraza 11.08 Reviews 48-44 EskStravagarza 11.08 Bobby's World 11.30 Life with Louie 11.58 Home to Rent 12.05pm Denns and Grasher 12.30

Musauon 4.50 Casper 5.00 Dennis and Grasher 5.30 Aze Ventura 6.00 Donkey Kong Country 6.30 SeldStartogarza 6.55 Oggy and the Cockroaches 7.00 Close NICKELODEON 7.00 CalDog 7.30 Rugras, 8.00 The Wild Thombenys 8.30 Arthur 8.00 Children's BBC 10.00 Wimze's Mouse 10.30 Paga Seaver Stones 11.00 The Magris School Bus 11.30 PB Bear/Budge the Little Helicoptei/Anriel Antics/Family, Ness 12.00 Rugrats 12.30 pm Bue's Clues 1.00 Bananas in Pyjames 1.30 Little Bear Stones 2.00 Paddington Bear/Lize's Library/Potfland Bit/Mr Men 2.30 Children's BBC 3.00 Children's BBC 3.00

Donkey Kong Country 1.00 Movigle The New Adventures of Jungle Book 1.25 Ace Ventura 1.55 The Incredible Hull 2.20 Iron

Man 2.45 Fartastic Four 3.10 V-Man 8.30 For Kids X-Press 3.35 Soiderman 4.00 Gooseburnos 4.25 Hero Turties. The Next

BBC 3.00 Children's BBC 3.30 Goug 4.00 Three Frends and Jony 4.30 Rugrars 5.00 Sister Scien 5.30 Kenan and Kel 8.00 Penford Rejects 6.30 Moesha 7.00 Close BRAVO Corescion Marial Law 9.00 Extreme Champonship Wresting 9.30 Cops 10.00 The Late Lounge 10.30 Erotic Corressions 1.00 FGLM: The Happy Hooker Goes to Hollywood (1979) 1.00am Erotic Corlessions 1.30 The Late Lounge 2.00 Merue Law 3.00 FRLM: National Lampoon's Movie Mediness (1981) 5.00 Editerne Champonship Wrestling 3.30 Cops 8.00 Close Cops 6.00 Clase

PARAMOUNT COMEDY 7.00pm Jerny 7.30 Grace Under Fire 8.00 Ellen 8.30 Spin City 9.00 Drop the Dead Donkey 9.30 Whose Line is 1 Anyway? 10.00 FBLM: Jabberwocky (1977) 12.00 Little Night with David Letterman 1.00pm Tao 1.30 Frontine 2.00 Dr Natz 2.30 Tibs and Fibs 3.00 Nightstand 3.30 Abbott and Costello 4.00 Close

THE SCHFI CHANNEL SATELLITE: 8pm-MIDNIGHT ONLY 7.30em Biocomburg Information Television 8.00 Sightings 9.00 Bettester Galactica 10.00 Ocanium Lesp 11.00 Dark Shedows 11.30 The Ray Braziliery Theatre 12.00 The Invitight Zone 1.00pm Tales of the Unexpected 1.30 Tales of the Unexpected 2.00 Amazing Stories 2.30 Mysteries, Leap 8.00 Amezing Stories 8.30 Highland-er The Raven 9.30 The Hunger 10.00 FILMS Demon House (1996) 11.35 Sc-Focus Special 12.00 FILMS Megazone 23 1.45am Sc-Focus Special 2.00 The Guyver 2.30 100 Years of Horror 3.00 Dark Shadows 3.30 Dark Shadows 4.00 Close HOME & LEISURE 6.00am Today's Gournel 6.30 Graham Kerr 7.00 Room Serves 7.30 The Partited House 6.00 Wedding Story 8.30 A Baby Story 8.00 Semply Parting 9.30 The Great Gardeng Pior 10.00 Global Gardens 10.30 Not's Courty Cooking 11,00 The Documen 11.25 The Home and Leisure House 11.30 Ber Half Ethina Asteromes 12.00 Cur

Magic and Miracles 3.00 Baltiester Galactica 4.00 The Incredible Hull 5.00 Softings 6.00 The Pary Bradbury Theatre 6.30 New Alfred Hitchcock 7.00 Quantum

11.26 IPP FORMS and Lessure House 11.30 Our Hex Huril Fishing Adventures 12.00 Our House Down Under 12.30pm Antiques Trail 1.00 Our House 1.30 Hometime 2.00 New Yankee Wortshop 2.30 Home Again with Bob Ville 3.00 The: Old House with Steve and Norm 3.30 Cherite West Fishing DISCOVERY

A.00pm Rev Hunt Fishing Adventures 4.30
A River Schrowhere 5.00 Time Travellers
5.30 Tems X 6.00 Wilchite SOS 6.30
Untarned Africa 7.30 The Cuest 8.00
Outback Adventures 8.30 Unchanted Africa
8.00 Test Plots 10.00 The Great Egyptens
11.00 Weapons of War 12.00 Pinochet and
Allende Anatomy of a Coup 1.00am Tema
X 1.30 Time Travellers 2.00 Close ANIMAL PLANET

12:00 The New Adventures of Black Beauty 12:30pm Hollywood Salan 1:30 Deadly Austrakans 2:00 Wild Rescues 2:30 Human/Nalure 3:30 Horry's Practice 4:00 Jack Hanne's Zoo Life 4:30 Animal Octor Jack Harries 200 Lie 4.30 Pendly Australians 5.00 Per Rescue 5.20 Dendly Australians 5.00 The New Adventures of Black Beauty 5.90 Lasse 7.30 Rediscovery of the World 8.00 Animal Doctor 8.30 Animal X 9.90 Ocean Wids 9.30 Emergency Vets 10.00 Lions, Finding Freedom 11.30 Vet School 11.30 Emergency Vets 12.00 Close

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC 7.00pm The War of Wings and Tongues 7.30 Fire Bombers 8.00 The Shark Files The Smale of the Shark 9.00 The Warting Garne 10.00 Monkeys of Haruman 11.00 Koales in my Backvard 12.00 Kyonamg's Backward 4.00pm Clash of Wings: True Airpower 5.00 Forensic Science 6.00 Camelol 7.00 Salem CARLTON FOOD

9.00am Food Network Daily 9.30 Covon's Kitchen College 10.00 The Cookshop 19.30 First Taste 11.00 Worsal Thompson Cooks 11.30 A Sice of the Action 12.00 Food Network, Daily 12.30pm Franch Lunch 1.00 Covon's Kachen College 1.30 Sordon Ramsay's Passon for Flavour 2.00 Card Network Institute Head 2.30 Food Network Institute 1.30 Covon's Kachen College 1.30 Sordon Ramsay's Passon for Flavour 2.00 Card Network Institute 1.30 Card Network Institute 1.3 LIVING

6.00em Tiny and Craw 6.20 10 Plus 2 6.40

Greedyseurus and the Gang 8.45 Philber the Frog 6.50 Police Dot Shorts 7.00 Practical Parenting 7.05 Protessor Bubble Practical Parenting 7.06 Processor Bubble 7.30 Callou 7.35 Bug Alert 7.55 Process Parenting 8.00 Barney and Friends 8.25 Bebasios 8.30 Tiny Tales 8.35 Tiny and Crew 8.50 Practical Parenting 8.00 Special Babies 9.30 The Rossanne Show 10.00 The Jerry Springer Show 10.50 Maury Powich 11.40 The Heat Is On 12.10pm Drough the Keyholia 12.40 Response hrough the Keyhole 5.10 The Heat is On 12-topen hrough the Keyhole 5.10 Special Bables 3.00 Living Room 3.50 Micrael Cole 4.40 Though the Keyhole 5.10 The Heat is On 5.40 Ready, Steedy, Cook 6.15 The Jeny Springer Show 7.05 Rescue 911 7.35 Averall Rescue 8.00 L4 Law 9.00 FU.M. A Kidnapping in the Pamity (1996) 11.00 The Sex Files II 12.00 Close

5.00am Mrs Medflum Ded 5.30 Guidesta 8.00 Sory Men Lorry 6.30 Mest Must Show 7.00 Faith, Mustim 7.30 News 8.00 Must Must Show 7.00 Faith, Mustim 7.30 News 8.00 Must Mag 8.30 Tara 2 8.00 Adhistor 10.00 Yeh Zindagi 11.00 Zaike Ke Sefar 11.30 Paramoan 12.00 Fulls: Hand Movier Asidnal Desire 3.30 It's My Choke 4.00 Aktor Brital 4.30 Zeo Zone 6.30 Amanat 6.00 Artist of the Fortright 8.30 Zeo Ty Showcase 7.00 Chestrie Beddoor 7.30 Entertainment Express 8.00 News 8.30 Aashriwad 9.30 Fulls: Hindi Movier Ajany 12.00 News 12.30am Ru-Be-Ru 1.00 X.Zone 2.00 Fulls: Hindi Movier Ajany 12.00 News 12.30am Ru-Be-Ru 1.00





RUGBY LEAGUE 45

Stains plans to leave mark on Broncos

SP()RT

ROBERT ELMS 50

In praise of the maligned



FRIDAY MARCH 12 1999

Premier League duo forced to resign

By MATT DICKINSON

THE leaders of English foot-ball continued to fall like ninepins last night as Peter Leaver. the chief executive of the Premier League, and Sir John Quinton, its chairman, were forced to resign. Coming so soon after the recent scandal at the Football Association, the hierarchy of the national game now consists entirely of care-

Echoes of the FA's cash-forvotes crisis resounded through the Premier League controversy as Leaver and Quinton, like former FA counterparts Gra-ham Kelly and Keith Wiseman before them, were found guilty of exceeding their powers. As at Lancaster Gate less than three months ago, there were also undercurrents of political score-settling. Leaver had been increasingly unpopular among the FA Carling Premiership chairmen because of his austere style. It

given the chance to plead for his position, he is believed to have stood his ground.

Leaver and Quinton were deemed to have abused their positions by giving lucrative contracts to Sam Chisholm and David Chance, both former BSkyB executives, without the full consultation of the chairmen of the 20 Premier League clubs.

Several reacted furiously when they heard the huge sums that Chisholm and Chance could make, including up to £13 million between them if they successfully renegotiated television rights when they expire in 2001.

A four-man sub-committee comprising David Dein, vice-chairman of Arsenal, Rick Parry, chief executive of Liverpool. Alan Sugar, chairman of Tottenham Hotspur, and Michael Jepson, a Coventry City director, was set up to try



Leaver, left, and Ouinton were said to have exceeded their powers

with Chisholm and Chance. But by yesterday they had succeeded only in a meeting last week with Chance, who is understood to have insisted that his contract was legally

Leaver's failure to bring all the parties to the negotiating table had led to a hardening of

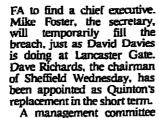
OUT OF A JOB



ing and the outcome appeared inevitable long before the meeting came to a conclusion after 31/2 hours. "Many of the chairmen seemed to have already made their minds up," a source said. "It was obvious from the start that the mood had turned against Leaver."

The Premier League will

now be in competition with the



through the crisis, comprising Dein, Parry. Doug Ellis, chairman of Aston Villa, Ken Bates. chairman of Chelsea, and Bryan Richardson, the Coventry chairman, was also approved. Parry will be put in charge of the ongoing legal case brought by the Office of Fair Trading, which is attempting to end the collective bargaining of clubs for relevision contracts. Leaver had already given his evidence and the League is confident that its case will not be damaged.

The most pressing job, though, will be the resolution of the Chisholm and Chance contracts, with the chairmen anxious that the negotiation of television rights should be brought back into their full remit and that the contracts offered by Leaver should be amended.

He promised Chisholm and Chance an initial fee of £600,000 with equal sums paid at the beginning of their second and third years, but it is the huge bonuses on offer that have provoked anger. A 5 per cent commission would be worth £13 million if, as the League hopes, the present BSkyB deal, worth £743 miltion over five years, is increased to more than £1 bil-

Chisholm and Chance were also promised 5 per cent of

pay-per-view revenue as well as 10 per cent of the equity in a Premier League television company, which could provide its own match coverage.

Manchester United and Newcastle United were the first clubs to raise objections and by yesterday Leaver, a Tottenham fan and commercial barrister, and Quinton, the former chairman of Bardays Bank, had lost all support. Neither would speak last night as their lawvers

negotiated settlements. The English game now finds itself with an acting FA chairman (Geoff Thompson). FA chief executive (Davies) and coach (Kevin Keegan), and now Richards and Poster at the Premier League. In Scotland, Jim Farry, chief executive of the SFA, was ousted from his post this week after an inquiry into the handling of the registration of Jorge Cadete, the Celtic striker.

Stone joins Villa, page 46

Henman puts case to be best of British

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN INDIAN WELLS, CALIFORNIA

locals termed it, is over and Tim Henman has emerged the winner. He advanced to the quarter-finals of the Champions' Cup with a 6-4, 2-6, 6-4

victory over Greg Rusedski. As a match, it was like the curate's egg, good in parts. At times, both played well, very well in some cases, but seldom at the same moment. Such is the way of things between two men who know each other's

For all their protestations of rivalry, Rusedski and Henman have always got one eye

ACROSS

IMES

THE Battle of Britain, as the likes to be beaten at the best of times, but neither can stand to have the other get even the hint of an edge on him. For example, Henman signs a deal with Mercedes and drives a nifty little sports car around town; Rusedski joins up with Jaguar and swans around in a gleaming new motor. All in all, such rivalry does not make for the best of tennis matches. Yesterday, there was definitely a note of tension in the air -

> As the match began, the but in these parts, two Limeys playing tennis does not count for much. "Henman's the Eng-

> > TWO

lish one, I think," a bemused and elderly voice in the crowd said. He was also the one in charge as the hostilities got

Rusedski was looking edgy and could not find his range on his first service, having to go through the first hour without an ace to his name. An exchange of breaks at the start did little to settle the nerves, but while Henman also took his time to get his service working, he was looking sharper on

was its usual, erratic self. When it is working, it is a match-winner; when it is stuttering, it is a liability and in the first set there was just enough of the former to make the difference. There were never going to be more than a few points in it either way and

times, so was none too concerned that his own was snatched just the once. Standing toe-to-toe in the

third set, Rusedski came off worse, literally. Henman had got the hang of the gusting



Henman cannot resist a glance towards Rusedski, his rival, during their tussle in Indian Wells yesterday. Photograph: Gary M. Prior/Allsport

Henman seemed to be collecting the ones that counted. However, the second set was a different story. Facing defeat, Rusedski began to relax and go for his shots and, as he did so, the wind picked up. Suddenly, the conditions were totally different and Henman could not cope. Rusedski started to head for the net with more frequency quarter-finals. and more purpose and, left to fend from the back court. Henman made a couple of duff judgments. As the set whistled by, Rusedski broke the Henman service three

wind, breaking Rusedski to move into a 4-3 lead, when Ruseski had to call for the trainer. A huge blister on his big toe needed treatment not that it seemed to slow him down much once the medics had done their stuff. But by then it was all too late and Henman was heading for the

Indeed, for him, the day was almost too good to be true. At first Henman and Rusedski's draw had looked to be a ticket to nowhere in particular. The figure of Pete Sampras loomed large in the quarter-finals until, that was, he ran into Felix Mantilla. The Spaniard, who really ought not to be allowed near a barber's shop without a responsible adult to hold his hand - the hair colour was normal but the goatee beard was a little alarming sat back and watched as Sampras stumbled and finally fell 7-6, 3-6, 6-3.

The world Not looked decidedly ring-rusty after his long winter break and, with only five matches under his belt this year, he was struggling from the start - and he knew

"I couldn't get my game going and I struggled with everything," he said. "I don't like losing and playing the way I did tonight, but you can't just get your form back, like the way I was playing in Hanover last year. It's going to take some time, but I'm a pretty impatient guy and I like to win everything I play."
One thing he is still deter-

mined not to play is the United States' Davis Cup-tie in April. Whatever the rumours and whatever Rusedski has said, Birmingham does not fit into

the great man's schedule.
"Maybe 11 get a message from God and He 'll say 'play Davis Cup', but I baven't spoken to Him lately," Sampras said, revealing a rare shaft of wit. However, with only two of the seven Americans left in the draw - Todd Martin and Chris Woodruff and three possible team members gone — Jan-Michael Gambill, Jim Courier and Justin Gimelstob — Tom Gul-likson, the United States captain, is having as hard a job getting a full team together

forget. as his opposite number, David me to become a referee. I told him he could not become a referee because he was an

For a

Mother's Day

she'll never

Exclusive Mother's Day Gift: Trésor Eau de Parfum 15ml and Body Milk 50ml, at £19.50.

WBC attacks choice of referee

4 Horseshoe river bend (5) 7 Prearranged piece of trickery l Fail, lie, inelegantly (6) 2 Parsimonious (6) 3 Tiny spots; sounds like glass-(3-2,3) Death in Venice author (4) 9 Mechanical tower-bells (8) 5 Accurate shot (5-3) 10 London insurance market (6) 6 Soft neigh (6) 11 Stubbornly unshakable (8) 12 Meek obedience (8) 13 Opportune (6) 14 C15 Florence ruling family

(6) 15 Friedrich — Marx colleague (6) 15 Right of admission (in socie-18 Ahandoned and decayed (8) ty) (6) 19 Protuberance (4) 16 A historian; an ape (6) 20 its course never did run 17 Supple: part of gun carriage smooth (MND) (4.4)

14 Confusion, mess (6)

SOLUTION TO NO 1662 ACROSS: 1 Cube 3 Haricot 8 Crucial 9 Taxes 10 Lupin 11 Close in 13 Test match 17 Caribou 19 Route 20 Rabbi 22 Invited 23 Hexagon 24 Eden DOWN: 1 Cackle 2 Blue Peter 3 Holy Communion 4 Ratio 5 Cox 6 Tisane 7 Fiends 12 Exhausted 14 Throve 5 15 Scorch 16 Redden 18 Being 21 Box

THE BOOKSHOP

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THE World Boxing Council (WBC) is unhappy with the appointment, by the New York State Athletic Commission, of Arthur Mercante Jr as the referee in the bout between Lennox Lewis and Evander Holyfield for the world heavyweight championship here tomorrow.

The WBC had wanted Mercante's father, Arthur Mercante Sr. 78, who had refereed the first contest between Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier at the Garden and has been in charge of 103 champi onship bouts in six decades of officiating in the ring.

Mercante Jr was the referee for the contest between Lewis and Ray Mercer at the Garden in 1996, but Jose Sulaiman, the WBC president, said: "We are very disappointed. We had told the New York commission that we wanted Arthur Mercante Sr but they ignored our wishes and

appointed his son. They did not even tell us who they had appointed. The son is not as experienced as FROM SRIKUMAR SEN IN NEW YORK

his father, naturally, or as good. If it is age that is worrying the commission, I can only say that he had a very good fight only recently. This event at the Garden is a very important one and requires someone who has most experience of big fights."

The New York commission was not available for comment, but it is believed that Mercante Sr's age went against him. It is thought that

the commission feared that if anything went wrong in the contest, they could be blamed for making the incorrect appointment of referee.

Those who have seen Mer-cante Sr say that, even if he is two years off 80, he looks no more than a man in his late 60s. This is because of his position as deputy commissioner of the parks and recreation department at Hampstead, New York, where he is in charge of

all fitness programmes.

Mercante Sr. who started out as the boxing co-ordinator of Gene Tunney in the US Navy in 1942, is still punching away, literally. He does several rounds on the heavy bag and speed-ball daily.

He said: "It was a great honour when they put up my name because I hope to be refereeing in the year 2000. But my son is just as good. They claim that he is the best young referee in the world. "I was very critical of him

Holyfield, but, because of the complaints by Mike Tyson about use of the head by Holyfield, the referee will be watching out for infringements by the International Boxing

amateur referee first for three

to five years. So he did the Golden Gloves and the Em-

pire State Games and, after

Mercante Jr has not refe-

reed any contests involving

three years, he was ready.

Ring of truth. Lynne Truss Federation and World Boxing Association champion. According to his father, Mercante Jr, who is 5ft 1lin

and heavily built, will tolerate no nonsense. "My one advice to him was to be in complete control at all times. And not to be aware of the camera or smile or wave at it, as some when he told me he wanted refs do," Mercante Sr said.